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Capital gains tax to go ahead as planned on January 1

JOSE ROSENFELD, RACHEL NEIMAN and DAN IZENBERG

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin yesterday decided that the capital gains tax on stock market profits will go ahead as planned on January 1.

Following his third meeting with Finance Minister Avraham Shohat in two days, Rabin came out in support of his chief economic policy-maker despite his refusal in the past week to squarely back him.

"The capital gains tax will be implemented, as planned, on January 1, 1995. However, we will follow its implementation closely to test it and to fix what needs fixing. All this while the law is implemented," Rabin said after the afternoon meeting.

Last night, Rabin met in his office with Shohat and ministry officials, Histadrut representatives and industrialists to discuss the development of a comprehensive economic program which will solve the problem of the overvalued shekel.

They also discussed the "package deal" being considered by the Treasury and the Histadrut. Participants in the meeting included Danny Gillerman, head of the federation of Israeli Chambers of Commerce, and Dan Propper, chairman of the Manufactures' Association.

The business leaders decided last night to come up with an agreed socio-economic program by mid-January. Participants said that most economic figures are good, even by international standards. However, they pointed to some areas that require attention, including inflation and export profitability.

Shohat noted yesterday that the capital gains law will go into force without any changes and that it will be subject to amendments as any law is if circumstances require it. "It is the natural course of legislation that it can be changed. After all the official title of the stock market tax law is Amendment 100 to the Income Tax Law," said Shohat.

Asked why he kept the nation in suspense and added to economic uncertainty by putting the future of the tax in question, Rabin replied that he thought it was worthwhile to review the decision.

The Tel Aviv Stock Exchange jumped 3.25 percent before Rabin's announcement, pushed by the belief that the capital gains tax law would be amended.

Following the announcement, the pendulum swung back.

By 1:45 p.m. the Maof and Two-Sided indexes had jumped 3.25% on demand of NIS 88 million. Five minutes later, after Rabin came on the radio, the market began to deteriorate rapidly, dropping 2.8% within 15 minutes.

By 4:00 p.m. more than 60% of shares were trading at a loss and the

(Continued on Page 2)



President Ezer Weizman, accompanied by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, reviews an honor guard in Cairo yesterday. (AP)

Weizman, Mubarak discuss Syrian role

BATSHEVA TSUR
CAIRO

EGYPT is making a special effort to improve relations with Israel because of Jerusalem's sensitivity to the recent strain in ties, a senior Israeli official said here yesterday.

"They appear to be taking Israeli public opinion into account, virtually for the first time, and to be reacting accordingly," the official said on the first day of a three-day state visit by President Ezer Weizman and his wife Reuma.

The Weizmans are being hosted by President Hosni Mubarak at the luxurious Koba Palace, the official presidential guest house. In addition, they are being accompanied by Tourism Minister Mamdouk Beltagi – a step which goes beyond protocol, the official pointed out. He also noted that Cairo pressed for the visit.

The Syrian role in the peace process came up in the talks between the two presidents.

After a short welcoming ceremony at the airport, the Weizmans and Mubarak drove to Al-Itahadiya Palace, where the president has his offices. Shortly before meeting with Weizman, Mubarak conferred with Syrian President Hafez Assad.

Mubarak reportedly made clear he would attempt to give momentum to the peace process when he meets with Assad and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia in Riyadh before the end of the month.

Weizman described the talks as preliminary, noting that most of the substantive issues will be dealt with today, in his meetings with Mubarak and leading cabinet ministers.

After meeting Mubarak, Weizman drove some 50 km. to the Tenth of Ramadan, a new industrial town being built to attract people away from the capital. It is named for the day the Yom Kippur War broke out, according to the Moslem calendar.

Weizman saw schools and housing complexes being constructed en route, then met with a dozen businessmen and industrialists to discuss means of simplifying tariffs in bilateral trade.

Some 100,000 people already live in the city, which has several large commercial enterprises. In a giant textile plant, Weizman chatted amiably with women in fundamentalist garb as they sewed fashionable outfits.

During the afternoon, accompanied by two generals, Weizman laid a wreath on the grave of Anwar Sadat, opposite the grandstand where he was shot, and at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. It was an impressive ceremony, with an Egyptian military band twice playing "Hatikva," but Mubarak did not attend.

The presidential motorcade held up Cairo's chaotic traffic, but drivers and passersby alike seemed to be taking the visit with interest.

People on rooftops and in windows of buildings stared silently as the vehicles bearing small Israeli flags traveled the highways. No Israeli flags fly in the streets, although one flies above Koba Palace.

The Egyptian media covered the ceremonial aspects of the visit, and Cairo radio reported that Egypt would press Israel on the issue of nuclear disarmament, without which, it said, there could be no full peace. One Information Ministry official, however, said the visit is not causing unusual attention, since Egyptians are used to having Israeli officials visit.

Tonight, Mubarak is hosting a state dinner for the Weizmans to which the cream of Egyptian society has been invited.

Two soldiers killed in security zone

Barak: IDF will initiate operations in region

DAVID RUDGE

TWO IDF soldiers were killed and three others wounded in separate Hizbullah attacks in the security zone yesterday.

Maj. Hamed Kawan, 30, from Maghar, near Safed, was killed while leading his troops in a charge against gunmen who ambushed the force near A-Tireh in the western sector of the zone. Two other soldiers were lightly wounded in the clash.

Sgt. Hadar Kehati, 19, of Rehovot, was killed earlier in the day, shortly before 7 a.m., when terrorists fired Sager anti-tank missiles, Katyusha rockets, and mortars at an IDF position near Talousa in the central sector. Kehati, a Golani Brigade soldier, was hit by shrapnel. Another soldier was lightly wounded.

Kehati's funeral is to be held today at the military cemetery in Rehovot at 3 p.m, while Kawan will be buried in his village cemetery at the same hour.



Sgt. Hadar Kehati
(IDF Spokesman)

Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Ehud Barak, reacting to the recent wave of Hizbullah attacks, said the IDF would continue to carry out initiated operations in and north of the zone.

He told reporters that OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine is continuing to initiate operations, as his predecessor, Maj.-Gen. Yitzhak Mordechai, had done.

"We will continue to carry out operations that seem right and have good prospects of hitting Hizbullah and exploit our advantages on the periphery of the zone and north of it," Barak told reporters.

He said he could not say whether Syria was behind the latest wave of attacks, but Israel's position was clear – that Syria could curb terrorist operations if it so desired.

The ambush near A-Tireh occurred while an IDF unit was on routine operational duties in the region.

The force came under heavy anti-tank and machine-gun fire. The IDF Spokesman said the soldiers returned fire and charged their attackers' position, during the course of which Kawan was killed.

UNIFIL spokesman Timur Goksel said Irish troops in a nearby UN post saw the patrol come

(Continued on Page 2)

IDF officers met Syrian envoy on Golan status

DAN IZENBERG

A GROUP of IDF officers presented plans to Syria's ambassador in Washington displaying Israel's maximum Golan withdrawal proposals, Likud chairman Binyamin Netanyahu told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who briefed the committee, did not deny that IDF officers had met with the Syrian ambassador, but added that they had not shown him withdrawal plans.

"I assume that MK Netanyahu did not attend these talks and therefore he did not see any documents," Peres told reporters after the committee meeting. "He could not have seen withdrawal documents, because there were none."

According to Channel 2, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has asked outgoing Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Ehud Barak to attend the talks. But this is dependent on Syria sending a sufficiently senior officer.

Inside the committee, Peres at first did not reply to Netanyahu's question on the matter. Later, Netanyahu reportedly again demanded to know whether it was true "that last week a group of officers met with the Syrian ambassador?"

"If you are asking about last week, the answer is no," replied Peres with a smile.

There have been reports that an Israeli officer participated in a recent meeting involving Israeli Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich and Syrian Ambassador Walid Mualem. The private talks between Rabinovich and Mualem have been going on for many months.

Recently, however, the US persuaded Syrian President Hafez Assad to include army representatives in these meetings to discuss security arrangements. In accordance with the agreement, Israel sent an officer to a recent meeting, but the Syrians reneged at the last moment.

Since then, the Syrians have

(Continued on Page 2)

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King David fails to topple government

DAN IZENBERG

AFTER dozens of attempts to bring down the government, the opposition parties yesterday harnessed King David to their cause.

But even the slayer of Goliath could not defeat the government, which easily turned back motions by the National Religious Party, United Torah Judaism, and Moledet over a comment made by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres during a plenum debate last week.

The vote was 56-41, with one abstention. The five Shas MKs did not take part in the vote, and Moledet's Shaul Gutman abstained.

Justice Minister David Liba'i must have made one of the most laconic defenses of any government, when he replied to the motion, presented by Avraham Ravitz, by first expressing agreement with Ravitz's ringing conclusion that "David, the king of Israel, lives on."

"Distinguished Speaker, MKs, indeed, David, king of Israel, lives on," said Liba'i. "In the name of the government, I ask you to strike the no-confidence motions from the agenda. Thank you very much."

The religious parties were incensed last week, when Peres, during a raucous debate on the awarding of the Nobel Prize to himself, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, referred to the story of King David and Batsheva, saying he did not regard David as a model of Jewish values in all of his conduct.

Ravitz accused Peres of speaking with "mockery and contempt," and said he had "hurt the feelings of millions of Jews throughout the world, innocent Jews who awake in the morning and recite Psalms, or those who read the Book of Psalms each day, Jews for whom Kind David is supremely holy."

Secular MK David Mena (Likud) also got into the act. "The values of the Bible are shared by all the people of Israel," he said. "Injury to the values of the Bible or the sanctity of the Bible is an injury to many people ... to us, to me, to others."

After Mena's speech, Labor faction chairman Eli Dayan told the NRP, UTJ, and Moledet they had made their point and appealed to them to drop the motion. But NRP chairman Zevulun Hammer refused, and the debate continued.

Israel, PLO differ over council's numbers

DAN IZENBERG

THE Palestinians are demanding that the interim self-governing authority number 80 representatives while Israel is insisting on 30-40, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday.

Peres said that during last week's meeting between the Israeli and Palestinian delegations in Cairo, the Palestinians presented a list of demands regarding the council and the elections.

In addition to their insistence on an 80-member council, the Palestinians want the council to be divided into two bodies – an executive and a supervisory body. According to Peres, the Palestinians regard the supervisory body as similar to the office of the State Comptroller in Israel. Benny Begin (Likud) disputed this assessment, arguing that in asking for a supervisory body, the Palestinians mean to establish a legislature.

Peres will meet with PLO leader Yasser Arafat at the Erez checkpoint in Gaza tomorrow to discuss speeding up negotiations over Palestinian elections and redeployment of IDF troops, Channel One reported last night.

The sides remain divided over the status of eastern Jerusalem Palestinians in the election for the interim self-governing authority, said Peres, without elaborating.

The government has reportedly agreed to allow the Palestinian residents of eastern Jerusalem to vote for the council, but insists that they cross into the autonomy area to cast their votes. The Palestinians want to hold the elections in eastern Jerusalem and insist that eastern Jerusalem residents be allowed to stand as candidates for the council.

Peres denied a report that the Foreign Ministry has drafted a paper calling for a quick, first-phase IDF withdrawal from Ramallah, Jenin and Nablus. "There is absolutely no truth to this," he said in response to a question by Moshe Peled (Tsomet). "There was no such document and no names of cities have been mentioned."

Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Gur said yesterday that Israel and the PLO are far from agreeing on moving Israeli forces away from Arab population centers in the territories.

Speaking during a visit to Ma'aleh Adumim, Gur said Israel was still concerned about security within Gaza and Jericho.

"Right now we (are) negotiating the many points...some of them are the continuation of the Cairo Agreement and some of them new ones, especially concerning the elections and the redeployment," Gur said, according to Reuter.

"I believe that we are very far yet from being in a position to sign any agreement about that," he said.

No instant solutions in Lebanon

COMMENT

ALON PINKAS

ISRAEL repeatedly describes the reality in south Lebanon as an intricate war of attrition, influenced by more variables and actors than just those militarily involved.

It is a complex game in which Israel, Syria, the South Lebanon Army, Iran, Lebanon, the Israeli-Syrian peace process, and Islamic fundamentalism are all interwoven into an almost intractable political-military fabric.

While attrition primarily refers to endurance and defines an operational or strategic goal, the military characteristics of this war, specifically the power ratios, suggest that it is a guerrilla war. When Hizbullah imposes a war of attrition on a far stronger IDF and its proxy militia (the SLA), and when the casualty ratio is just slightly higher than one-to-one in Israel's and the SLA's favor, then Hizbullah can justifiably proclaim a military achievement.

Although Israel potentially controls escalation, in that it can dictate the timing, the area, and the force used, Hizbullah's initiatives determine the rules of daily confrontation, even if the IDF's top brass talk of successful Israeli initiatives beyond the security zone.

The pattern of Hizbullah's military activities in the last year is extremely difficult to effectively counter and defeat. Hizbullah has not only transformed itself into a disciplined fighting force, but has added versatility to its use of firepower and movement.

Hizbullah fires its longer-range weapons – Sager anti-tank missiles, mortars, and Katyusha rockets – in salvos against the array of fixed IDF outposts. They are easily mobile weapons systems (supplied in abundance by Iran through Syria), which makes detecting the origin of the fire and counterbattery fire difficult.

Secondary attacks then take place against IDF patrols and convoys moving to and from the outposts, and at times an outpost is attacked.

This guerrilla war of attrition has become the status quo in south Lebanon. Given the political constraints (e.g. the understandings reached in 1993), and lessons of previous less-than-successful incursions and invasions (1978, 1982, 1988, 1993), there is no effective military response, only a harsh political dialogue with Syria.

It may weaken Israel to expect Syria to solve the problems, and it is inaccurate and misleading to assume that Syria is omnipotent in south Lebanon and that Hizbullah has no life or interests of its own.

But the fact is that Syria can, but will not radically intervene to change reality. It does not serve Hafez Assad's interests, and the sooner Israel realizes this, the better its own interests will be served.



Rahat resident Awad Alkatnani is presented with a scholarship by 'Jerusalem Post' Vice President Avi Golan on behalf of the Post Welcome Home Fund, as Rahat Mayor Talal Alkrienawi looks on. (Isaac Harari)

Palestinian official: IDF okays reopening houses of released Palestinian prisoners

JON IMMANUEL

ISRAEL has agreed to reopen houses of Palestinian prisoners released early from life sentences and allow others to rebuild their homes, Jamil Tarifi, the head of the Palestinian negotiating team on civil affairs, said yesterday.

Tarifi maintained that in his talks with civil administration officials, "We agreed that houses which were sealed or demolished as a result of a security offense committed by a family member who was now released could be repaired or rebuilt." However, each case requires full coordination with the army, he said.

The IDF said it was checking with the civil administration and Defense Ministry on whether there had been a change in policy, as no houses had yet been reported unsealed.

Five months ago, Mubarak Awad, the Washington-based civil disobedience campaigner deported in 1988, came and organized a group to break open sealed houses around Jerusalem.

The houses had been inhabited by prisoners jailed for killing other Palestinians or for attacks on military targets, released as part of the Cairo agreement.

Awad maintained that since the houses were sealed as part of the sentence, they should have been unsealed when the prisoners were released. However, the army resealed them.

Meanwhile Tarifi, a resident of Ramallah-El-Bireh, said he would lodge a protest via the civil administration because the IDF has closed some 50 shops in downtown Ramallah where a crowd attacked soldier Shmuel Meiri in his car last Wednesday.

Rabin appears at Law Committee to oppose Jerusalem bills

DAN IZENBERG

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin yesterday accused opposition MKs of trying to sabotage the peace process by proposing legislation requiring a majority of 80 MKs to change the Basic Law: Jerusalem, which annexed the eastern part of the city to Israel.

In an unprecedented appearance before the Law Committee, Rabin tried to persuade its members not to support the bills, proposed by Uzi Landau (Likud) and Yitzhak Levy (NRP). The bills were approved by the plenum in preliminary reading last year.

The committee is now preparing the legislation for first reading, though opposition MKs have accused chairman Dedi Zucker of procrastinating, with the intention of burying the bills.

"The aim of this legislation is not to guarantee the unity of Jerusalem, but to sabotage the negotiations [with the Palestinians] before we even get to the subject of Jerusalem," said Rabin.

He also charged that "the very raising of the issue only serves to create the impression that there is not a national consensus, as if to say someone is even considering yielding on the issue ... I do not not need anyone's certificate of approval regarding [my stand] on the unification of Jerusalem."

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert (Likud) said the question of the city's future status has changed drastically as a result of the Oslo Accord, which formally committed Israel to negotiate the issue with the PLO.

"There is no doubt in my mind that over the past year, Palestinian expectations regarding concessions on our part regarding Jerusalem have been raised," Olmert said. "It is absolutely clear that the government's decision to include Jerusalem as a formal item in the negotiations says we are open to concessions."

Gur calls for expansion of Ma'aleh Adumim

DEPUTY Defense Minister Mordechai Gur yesterday called for increased housing construction around Ma'aleh Adumim to strengthen Israel's hold on territories just east of Jerusalem.

Gur visited the settlement and promised local leaders he would raise the issue in the cabinet.

He also backed the local leaders request that the army roadblock now situated between Ma'aleh Adumim and Jerusalem be moved east of the settlement.

Over the past four years, Ma'aleh Adumim's municipal boundaries have been increased by some 20 percent, as efforts were made to expand the city, according to Mayor Benny Kashriel.

The city numbers some 20,000 residents. The number should triple in the coming years, if the government follows through on building plans already approved, Kashriel said.

Kashriel reiterated the city's demand that a Beduin tribe camped nearby be evicted to make way for housing construction. An appeal of the eviction by the tribe is being considered by the army. (Itim)

Domestic violence treatment center opened in capital

A Jerusalem center for treating and preventing domestic violence was opened yesterday in a ceremony attended by Labor and Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir.

The center was established through the efforts of the ministry, the Jerusalem Municipality and WIZO. Another 12 such centers for battered women are located throughout the country. *Itim*

CORRECTION

The Gerer rebbe is Rabbi Pinhas Menachem Alter, and not as published yesterday.

With deep sorrow we announce the death of our father and grandfather

DAVID GREENZAID ז"ל

The funeral will take place at the Herzliya municipal cemetery today, Tuesday, December 20, 1994, at 2:30 p.m.

The family

With deep sorrow, we announce the passing of our beloved husband, father and grandfather

MARTIN WEINSTEIN ז"ל

The coffin will arrive this afternoon, Tuesday, December 20 on El Al flight 008 and the funeral will take place approximately 1 1/2 hours later, at Eretz Hachaim Cemetery, Beit Shemesh.

Beatrice Weinstein
Paul Weinstein
Ira, Dorothy, Rachel, Odelia,
Nitzan, Aviad and Eyal Weinstein.

Shiva at 5/3 Mishol Uzrad, Ramot, Jerusalem.

TAX

(Continued from Page 2)

market closed down 0.25% on high turnover of NIS 145.38m. The Maof fell 0.44% to 171.45 and the Two-Sided slid 0.66% to 169.53. Only the Karam, trading earlier in the day, rose 0.53% to close at 152.35.

Rabin said that from the beginning he had accepted the principle that the stock market should be taxed. "The problem was only when and in which manner to do it."

"Our ears will be open to all the public which has invested and will invest in the stock market. In this way, we will fix whatever requires fixing," Rabin stated.

Later, Rabin, who was speaking at a special gathering of coalition MKs to discuss the 1995 budget, said: "I hope that the money market, which was in a terrible state without any connection to the taxation of the stock market, will become a more balanced and business-minded, and less of a speculative operation."

Rabin became angry when Science and Culture Minister Shulamit Aloni condemned the confusion of the past 10 days, saying that "all the arguments raised today were known at the time."

"I'm the prime minister," said Rabin, standing up and interrupting Aloni. "I take responsibility for the delay."

Asked if he saw Rabin's decision as a personal victory, Shohat responded by saying, "it is not an issue of whether I won or not, that is not that important for me. I am very happy, though, that all the talk about possible changes [to the law] has disappeared."

Economics Minister Shimon Shetreet, who led the fight for changing the law, interpreted Rabin's decision as a vindication of his claim for the need to amend the law. "The tax will be fixed so that individuals will not have to pay taxes on losses," he said.

Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel came out in support of Rabin's decision. "One of our big problems lately was the excessive level of uncertainty, and any step which takes away some of the uncertainty is a welcome step," said Frenkel.

Frenkel, himself, would not divulge whether he would raise interest rates next week and denied that the central bank could be pressured into keeping rates unchanged.

"Everyone knows that economic policy is not set by requests or according to pressures, but according to the economy's needs," he said.

Police and Energy Minister Moshe Shahal surprised the coalition gathering when he came out in support of Rabin's decision.

"The prime minister had no other choice but to accept the tax," said Shahal who, together with Shetreet, spearheaded the drive against its implementation. "The law is just. It is only that the way it was passed and the reasons given for it were not done properly. [But] any other decision would have damaged credibility."

Pini Badash, the only Tsomet MK to support the tax, congratulated Rabin and said that a decision not to implement the tax would have "disgraced himself, the government he represents, and, above all, the Knesset."

Ariel Weinstein (Likud) said it would take another six months before the law could be implemented because the banks have not even begun to come to grips with the administrative problems involved in carrying it out.

Shlomo Buhbut (Labor) called on the government to postpone the implementation of the law.

SOLDIERS

(Continued from Page 1)

under fire. He said they saw the soldiers returning fire and then charging, before losing eye contact.

Reports from Lebanon said IDF and South Lebanese army gunners blasted suspected terrorist targets north of the zone, especially around Rashaf, Hadartha, Yatar, and Kafra. According to the reports, a woman resident of Kafra was wounded.

A nearby SLA post also came under fire in the course of the evening, as fighting raged for several hours before dying out.

Hizbullah radio announced that the ambush had been carried out by a previously unknown group calling itself the Palestine Revolutionary Islamic Army. Some Lebanese observers, however, said it was likely Hizbullah was using the name to cover up its own activities, although they did not rule out the possibility of cooperation between it and radical Islamic Palestinian elements.

A senior source in Northern Command said the gunmen had deliberately fired at the Talousa position from inside Majdal Salim and Kabrikha, north of the zone.

"They deliberately used the civilian population in these villages as cover for their attack, in the full knowledge that the IDF would not return fire into the villages to avoid causing casualties among innocent people," the source told *The Jerusalem Post*.

Hizbullah, in a statement issued in Beirut, claimed responsibility for the attack. The statement said that it had attacked IDF forces in the Talousa and Markabeh areas.

The statement said that later a unit from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine - General Command had attacked another IDF unit in the vicinity of Talousa and had hit a tank. There was no report of any casualties in that incident, which was not confirmed by IDF sources.

UNIFIL sources said that during the course of the gun battle about a dozen Sager missiles and a similar number of Katyushas, as well as mortars, heavy machine guns, and light weapons had been fired at the Talousa area.

IDF and SLA gunners responded with a barrage of heavy artillery, tank and mortar fire.

Reports from Lebanon said much of the return fire was concentrated at the outskirts of Majdal Salim and Kabrikha, but there were no reports of any shells falling inside the villages.

In its attacks, Hizbullah has demonstrated a high degree of intelligence and an ability to choose targets and hit them almost with impunity. The long-range attack on Talousa also involved a range of weaponry from Hizbullah's arsenal, giving an indication of its military capabilities.

One Lebanese radio station reported that two Hizbullah gunmen had been killed by IDF return fire, although there was no official confirmation from other sources, and it was unclear which of the attacks the radio was referring to.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Shahal: Edri's treatment to be probed

It appears unreasonable force was used against Lt. Oren Edri during his arrest and interrogation for alleged involvement in an underground right-wing organization, Police Minister Moshe Shahal said yesterday. Shahal told Israel Radio this was very serious, and an internal investigation of those responsible has already been launched. *Itim*

Beduin goatherd killed in fall

An eight-year-old Beduin goatherd was killed yesterday, when he fell off a cliff in the Mitzpe Zohar region of the Judean Desert. Yonas Gavua fell about 300 meters to his death after going with his sister to herd goats near the Sdom-Arad road. Family members recovered the boy's body. *Itim*

GOLAN

(Continued from Page 1)

relented, and both sides are due to send military representatives to a meeting between Rabinovich and Mualem this week.

Peres told the committee Israel was waiting to see the rank of the soldier the Syrian government planned to send before choosing its own representative to the talks.

Peres told reporters that the talks between Israel and Syria have been going on without interruption. "However, they are going on very slowly," he said. "They are not being conducted in a way which can lead to substantial results."

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Shalgi Commission finds no evidence of illegal adoption of Yemenite children

LIAT COLLINS

SIXTY-FIVE of the 505 Yemenite children whose disappearance was investigated by the Shalgi Committee have still not been accounted for, but there is no indication that they were the victims of criminal activity or illegal adoption. This is the main finding of the report Judge Moshe Shalgi submitted to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin yesterday.

The Shalgi Commission, like the 1967 Bahalul-Minkovsky Commission, investigated the disappearance of Yemenite children between 1948 and 1954. The Yemenite community has consistently claimed the children were stolen from hospitals and children's homes and adopted by childless Holocaust survivors. Neither report found evidence of mass adoptions, legal or otherwise.

Shalgi's report, which took six years to compile, says the disappearance of the children can be attributed to the huge numbers of immigrants; the difficult physical conditions and problematic absorption process; the generally poor health of the many children, worsened by the harsh winter weather in those years; language difficulties between the Yemenite immigrants, who spoke a classical, heavily accented Hebrew; and problems because many of the children had several names.

"I'm convinced its findings are accurate and throw light on the children's disappearance," Rabin said, "but it cannot erase the pain felt by the Yemenite community."

He will refer the findings to the cabinet, before deciding whether to accede to a request by the Public Committee for Yemenite Immigrants for a state inquiry with wider powers.

Public committee chairman and Rosh Ha'ayin Mayor Yigal Yosef refused to sign the report. He disputed its findings; accused Shalgi of disseminating 'disinformation'; demanded a state inquiry; and walked out of yesterday's press conference.

"It is ridiculous to say that there were language problems or problems with the names. We spoke Hebrew, and the names were all good Hebrew names like Esther or Rahel. It's a lot easier than the -miches, -viches and -itzes the Europeans came with," he said.

Yosef said he remembers his mother being turned away from the hospital from which his baby sister Esther disappeared. In 1991, as a result of the investigation, the family was finally given a death certificate. "But I believe documents can be falsified. I believe my sister is still alive."

"Many families remember a mother breast-feeding a child one day and the next day being told the child had died. In most of these cases, no death certificate was issued and the parents were not told of the burial place," he said.

Shalgi rejected Yosef's claims, and said much of the emotional response stemmed not only from the pain of losing a relative, but also from the treatment the immigrants had received from the establishment during the early years of their aliya.

"If a state inquiry is established, it will be, as someone noted, the price to pay for the fact [the Yemenite immigrants] were sprayed with DDT and had their earlocks cut off on arrival," Shalgi said.

Yosef warned that without a state inquiry, "the normally quiet Yemenite community could explode."

Shalgi accepted criticism that the commission had taken a long time – six years – to prepare its report, but rejected complaints about its methods, based on documentation.

Asked why the commission had not questioned most of the parents of the missing children or hospital doctors and nurses involved with individual incidents, he said: "We didn't need to. In most cases we had enough written information without speaking to the parents and reopening their wounds. What would have been the point of asking a certain doctor if he remembered a specific child?"



Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin shakes hands with Judge Moshe Shalgi after accepting his commission's report. (Brian Hendler)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Couple charged with beating daughter

A Netanya couple was indicted yesterday for beating and trying to strangle their 14-year-old daughter after suspecting she was taking drugs and stealing their jewelry.

The couple, aged 43 and 40, tackled their daughter and asked where the gold was, while the father held her by the throat, according to the charge sheet. When the girl tried to free herself, the father threatened to kill her and began beating her with a guitar, the charge sheet said. The mother also beat the girl, threatening to "ruin her pretty face." The trial will begin in January. *Itim*

Drug bust yields 9 kg. of cocaine

A Holon man was caught with 9 kg. of cocaine yesterday, in what police said was one of the biggest drug busts ever.

The street value of the cocaine is estimated at NIS 4.5 million. The suspect, 39, will be brought before the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court for a remand hearing tomorrow. *Itim*

Suspected murder victim buried

Natalie Weissman-Margalit, 33, whose elderly parents are suspected of killing her, was buried yesterday. Her ex-husband and parents, under police guard, attended the funeral.

The couple, 74 and 72, have denied all charges. Police say they have not made any more progress in the investigation. *Itim*

Meshulam trial resumes, without defendants

The trial of Uzi Meshulam and 10 of his followers resumed in Tel Aviv District Court yesterday, a day after the defendants were expelled from the courtroom for unruly behavior.

The defendants were not present, and there was no cross-examination, as they had fired their lawyers and refused to allow them in court.

Police sharpshooters from the special anti-terror unit testified that when Meshulam was searched before he met with Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz in Yehud, two loaded pistols were found on him. The police also said that during the siege of Meshulam's Yehud fortress, in which one of his followers was killed, they only fired at the house after they were fired upon. *Itim*

Tel Aviv bank victimized by cyclist robber

A robber on a bicycle escaped with NIS 80,000 in cash yesterday from the Bank Discount branch at the intersection of Shefer Alley and Hacarmel Street in Tel Aviv yesterday.

The 35-year-old robber entered the bank around noon, pointed a weapon at a cashier, handed him a bag and demanded he fill it with cash. The cashier did as he was told, and the robber left quickly, grabbing a bicycle he left outside and pedaling quickly away. Police are still looking for him. *Itim*

Brother and sister reunited after 56 years

A Netanya woman spoke to her brother in Siberia yesterday for the first time in 56 years.

The conversation was made possible by David Tzitzovitch, of the Foreign Ministry, who recently visited the Jews of Siberia. While in Omsk, he was approached by Isaac Friedman, who asked him to help locate his sister, with whom he had lost contact after she made aliya from Warsaw in 1938. Tzitzovitch located the sister, Haya Tierman, 81, in Netanya, and a phone call was arranged. *Itim*

Lotto jackpot hits NIS 18 million

After three weeks without a winner, today's Lotto jackpot has reached NIS 18 million, the fourth time this year it has topped NIS 15m.

Forty-one people have become Lotto millionaires this year, five from Tel Aviv, five from Jerusalem, four from Haifa, three from Holon, and two from Bnei Brak. Fourteen of the millionaires worked for others, 15 were self-employed, and five were retirees.

Lau joins interfaith conference

Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau last week addressed an interfaith conference in Barcelona in which Sheikh Mahmoud Zagzoug, dean of the theology faculty of Al-Azhar University, the Dalai Lama, and official representatives of the Vatican also participated.

Also taking part in the gathering, organized by UNESCO, was Rabbi Ehud Bandel, a leader of Israel's Masorti (Conservative) Movement and director of the Rabbis for Human Rights.

Standards set for imported sunglasses

JUDY SIEGEL

THE Health Ministry has finally agreed on a standard for sunglasses that will ensure, before this summer, that only lenses that protect against ultraviolet light may be imported.

A UV-protective standard for sunglasses has been demanded for years by Prof. Michael Belkin, of the ophthalmology department at Sheba Hospital, on behalf of the Israel Ophthalmology Association.

Years of exposure to the damaging rays of sunlight can cause serious harm to the eye, including formation of cataracts. Belkin has urged parents to buy UV-protective sunglasses even for children.

But "UV-Protecting" stickers on sunglasses sold around the country are no guarantee that the lenses in fact filter out most or all of the damaging UV-1 and UV-2 light.

Dr. Avi Livnat, head of the ministry's medical equipment department, said yesterday that anyone who imports sunglasses through customs will have to produce certification that they meet the standard, which will be presented to the Industry and Trade Ministry and registered officially with the Israel Standards Institute (ISI). He noted that nothing could be done about sunglasses smuggled in, but approved glasses will have to bear the ISI emblem.

Hospitals to ban mobile phones

JUDY SIEGEL

A HOSPITAL patient in Scotland who was attached to a computerized infusion pump nearly killed himself by calling home on a cellular phone; the electromagnetic field interfered with the computer's dosage instructions to the pump.

The Jerusalem Post has learned that the Health Ministry intends to bar visitors, patients, and most staffers from bringing cellular phones into hospitals.

Dr. Avi Livnat, head of the ministry's medical equipment department, has investigated reports from Britain that mobile phones interfere with sensitive medical devices, including infusion pumps, defibrillators and computerized monitors.

"In Britain, hospitals have installed signs asking those who enter hospitals to completely turn off their cellular phones. Even when calls are not being made, the phones and can interfere with medical devices," Livnat said yesterday.

"The British public will honor such requests, but Israelis are unlikely to do so; therefore, signs will be posted, and we will ask them to leave their cellular phones at the entrance or in their car."

As for doctors who need to use them in their work, they will soon receive guidelines on how to avoid causing medical devices to go haywire.

Livnat added that the ministry has not yet received any reports of harm to patients here from the use of cellular phones in hospitals. However, he said, it could happen.

Haredi paper seeks boycott of conference featuring Rabin

HERB KEINON

HAREDI rabbis have been called upon to boycott a rabbinic conference on assimilation because the keynote speaker is Acting Religious Affairs Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

The conference, scheduled for Thursday in Tel Aviv, is being organized by the Israeli Rabbinical Circle, headed by Rabbi Efraim Zalmanovitch, chief rabbi of Mazkeret Batya. He said the conference, "Between Israel and the nations in light of the agreement with Jordan," will deal with how it is possible for Israeli youth to retain their identity as the barriers separating them from the Arabs begin to fall.

"On the one hand, the borders are starting to open; on the other, the court recognizes homosexuals as couples," Zalmanovitch said. "And in the meantime, you have Israeli youth who cannot recite *Shema Yisrael*. How do we deal with this. This is something that needs to be addressed."

Zalmanovitch said the goal of the conference is to put the issue of assimilation within Israel on the national agenda.

But, wrote the haredi daily *Yated Ne'eman* in its lead editorial, the organizers could not have picked a worse keynote speaker.

"What is absurd is that the organizers of the conference feel that it can contribute to the fight against assimilation," the editorial read. "The head of this government that uproots Jewish values, whose central members set as a goal uprooting all that separates and distinguishes Israel from the nations, is the one invited to a conference against assimilation? This is like inviting some guru to be the keynote speaker at a conference against the plague of cults."

The paper called upon all the rabbis invited to the conference to boycott it, saying that going to the conference "gives legitimization to the government's policies ... and encouragement to the government that proudly tramples on Jewish values and profanes the holy."

In addition to Rabin, Haifa Chief Rabbi She'ar-Yashuv Cohen, Tel Aviv Chief Rabbi Haim David Halevy, and Religious Affairs Minister Director-General Ze'ev Rosenberg are scheduled to speak.

Zalmanovitch said Rabin was invited to address the conference because he is the acting religious affairs minister, and that additional funds are needed to fight assimilation.

Politicians unite on protecting open landscape

LIAT COLLINS

MOLEDET, Hadash, Likud, Labor and Meretz politicians managed to agree on something this week – they joined the Public Council for the Protection of Open Landscape and Land Resources, which will be formally established Thursday.

Among those who have already registered with the council are Health Minister Ephraim Sneh, Environment Minister Yossi Sarid, Avraham Burg (Labor), Uzi Landau (Likud), Naomi Chazan (Meretz), Rehavam Ze'evi (Moledet), Yosef Ba-Gad (Moledet) and Tamar Gozansky (Hadash).

"Israel is becoming one of the most crowded countries in the world. The increase in the population is being accompanied by the construction of hundreds of thousands of housing units, new neighborhoods and settlements, hundreds of dunams of roads and interchanges, industrial areas and more.

Court rejects wiretapper's appeal

PRIVATE investigator Honi Mizaki's appeal of his 27-month sentence after being convicted on nine counts, including wiretapping, was rejected by Tel Aviv District Court yesterday.

Mizaki's lawyer Zvi Lidsky argued that his client received an overly harsh sentence, and that the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court had been unduly influenced by public sentiments concerning such crimes.

The prosecution, however, argued that Mizaki should have received an even harsher sentence.

The court noted that Mizaki had continued his wiretapping after his release on bail on the charges.

The Tel Aviv District Court judges also noted the damage caused by wiretapping. "The [Magistrate's Court] judge was right in stressing the seriousness of the crimes and the severe damage caused by wiretapping and the need to fight these offenses which hurt individual privacy," they said. (Itim)

Tax crackdown nets NIS 10 million

THE government is some NIS 10 million richer after recent Income Tax Authority operations in the Lower Galilee.

In one operation, tax men raided 517 homes and business searching for people with large back tax bills or long-standing obligations they had not arranged to pay. This netted them NIS 2.6m. There were 216 confiscations of property, including eight cars.

Tax men, accompanied by police, broke into 34 homes and businesses, whose owners had vanished, and confiscated property, leaving the owners a list of what had been seized.

In an operation in early November, the tax authorities approached people with tax bills and asked them to arrange a payment schedule. More than 500 such arrangements were reached, netting the Income Tax Authority NIS 7.5m. (Itim)



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Meeting on release of US pilot canceled

PAUL ALEXANDER
SEOUL

US officials planned to try again today to meet with North Korea after a planned session to discuss the return of two American pilots was canceled at the last minute.

"I know we still want to talk with them," US military spokesman Jim Coles said yesterday when asked whether further efforts would be made to set up a meeting.

The White House promised yesterday to "press very hard" for the release of the aviator downed in North Korea, but said the incident does not need to unsettle fragile diplomatic relations with the communist state.

The pilots were aboard a US Army OH-58C helicopter that strayed into North Korean territory Saturday and either was shot down or made an emergency landing.

The White House said David Hilemon of Clarksville, Tenn., was killed and Bobby Hall of Brooksville, Fla., "is alive and reportedly uninjured." Both pilots were chief warrant officers.

A South Korean newspaper that has been strong in covering North Korean affairs quoted a high-ranking North Korean diplomat at the United Nations as saying his country will repatriate them quickly.

"Considering the improving relations between North Korea and the United States, the issue of repatriating the pilot who is alive and the body of the dead one is expected to be resolved soon," the Han-Kyoreh Shinmun quoted the unidentified diplomat as saying.

"It is unfortunate to lose a human life in peace time," the diplomat reportedly said. "The tragic accident has to do with the armistice treaty" that ended the 1950-53 Korean War.

The official demanded that Washington sign a peace treaty with North Korea to prevent similar accidents. Pyongyang has been trying to replace the current armistice with a peace treaty through bilateral negotiations with Washington, snubbing South Korea, which it considers a US puppet.

The lack of a peace treaty leaves the peninsula still technically in a state of war.

US and North Korean officials had been scheduled to meet yesterday at the truce village of Panmunjom, in the heavily fortified Demilitarized Zone that separates the two Koreas.

Duty officers on both sides of the border hold a daily meeting there, the only regular official contact between North and South.

They discussed the helicopter issue Sunday but didn't yesterday, and the North Koreans canceled a higher-level meeting scheduled later in the day, Coles said.

"The KPA (Korean Peoples Army) called at the last minute to say their leaders were busy working on their investigation," Coles added.

That meant the main contact yesterday was US Rep. Bill Richardson, who went to North Korea for talks on the recent Washington-Pyongyang nuclear accord and extended his stay to help in the negotiations.

A White House aide said US officials also were talking in New York with the North Koreans and their main allies, the Chinese.

The United States has said the helicopter was unarmed and on a routine training mission.

"This tragic loss of life was unnecessary," President Clinton said Sunday. He demanded Hall's release and urged Richardson to seek "prompt access" to him.

(AP)



Zhan Videnov, head of Bulgaria's Socialist party, celebrates victory in Sofia yesterday. (AP)

Bulgarian Communists make a comeback

SOFIA (AP) – Amid widespread discontent with sinking living standards and instability, Bulgaria's former Communists are back in power after parliamentary elections.

According to official estimates, the Socialists would command an absolute majority of 124 seats in the 240-seat parliament. Their main rivals, the staunchly anti-Communist Union of Democratic Forces would gain 68 seats.

Computation of the the distribution of seats was based on 92 percent of the votes counted, but few changes were expected in the final tally, said election commission spokesman Mihail Konstantinov in a state radio interview.

Final results were not expected until late today or early tomorrow.

Sunday's election returned fourth former Communist Party to power in Eastern Europe, after Hungary, Poland and Lithuania. It also could break three years of stalemate that has blocked economic and social reforms.

Nearly complete results show the Socialists gained 43.73 percent of the vote based on 92% of the votes counted. The Union of Democratic Forces (UDF) received 23.85% of the vote.

Zhan Videnov, the 35-year-old Socialist leader, said voters punished the UDF for "its unproductive, confrontational policy, its incompetence and irresponsibility."

The Popular Union, made up of the Democratic Party that split from the UDF and an Agrarian party, were a distant third with 6.52 percent or 19 seats, followed by the mainly Turkish Movement for Rights and Freedoms with 5.5% and 16 seats.

The Bulgarian Business Bloc of George Ganchev, a flamboyant businessman who spent years in Britain and the United States, just cleared the parliamentary hurdle of four percent, gaining 4.76 percent and a provisional 13 seats.

Results thus far gave the Democratic Alliance, a small coalition of Social Democrats, the Green Party and some reform-minded Socialists, 3.81% of the vote, not enough to gain representation.

Their poor showing apparently bolstered the Socialists chance to gain absolute majority. Some 40 minor parties shared about 12% of the vote.

About 75% of the 6.6 million Bulgarians eligible to vote cast their ballots.

EU-Turkey deal blocked by Greece

BRUSSELS (Reuter) – Greece blocked an agreement between its arch-rival Turkey and the European Union yesterday, delaying approval of a customs union that would open the lucrative EU market to Turkish goods.

EU officials said Athens had objected to the EU-Turkey pact and to the release of 600 million European currency units ($1.2 billion) in financial assistance.

"Greece still has a veto on the agreement," said one EU source.

He said Greece was demanding a date for negotiations to begin bringing Cyprus into the EU. It has previously blocked agreements with Turkey saying it wants Turkish troops withdrawn from the divided island.

The EU has hesitated about enlargement negotiations with Cyprus partly due to the division.

The hard line taken by Greece yesterday effectively turned a scheduled meeting between EU foreign ministers and their Turkish counterpart into a mere stock-taking discussion.

Asked what concrete action could come from the meeting, French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said: "Alas, nothing."

Juppe said Germany, the EU's current president, would issue a statement on behalf of 14 countries – 11 EU nations, plus Austria, Sweden and Finland, who will join in January.

There would also be a statement, he said, urging Turkey to make progress in respecting human rights, particularly in light of the December jailing of eight Turkish Kurdish parliamentarians.

EU diplomats held out the hope the customs union could be agreed during the six-month French EU presidency that begins in January.

The EU-Turkey pact would bring Turkey closer to the bloc than any country other than Norway and Iceland, which have free trade with the EU through the European Economic Area.

It would require Turkey to drop its tariffs on EU goods and change its trade relations with third countries to bring them into line with EU trade agreements.

In exchange, the vast EU market would be opened to Turkish goods.

EU diplomats and officials were at pains to point out that the customs union itself is basically agreed and that only the political issue is holding it up.

On the human rights issue, the jailing of the parliamentarians, accused of supporting the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), has brought widespread condemnation from Europe.

Cyberhate causes concern

TOM TUGEND
LOS ANGELES

THE Simon Wiesenthal Center is asking Vice President Al Gore and an on-line computer service to face up to the swelling volume of hate tirades on electronic bulletin boards in cyberspace.

In a letter last week to the president of Prodigy, Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the Wiesenthal Center, requested that the commercial on-line computer service find a way "to deal with racist subscribers who abuse Prodigy to spread hatred and demean entire groups of people."

In an immediate response, Prodigy spokesman Brian Ek invited Cooper and researcher Rick Eaton to come to White Plains, NY and meet with Prodigy officials in early January.

At the same time, Cooper petitioned Gore, as the highest-ranking advocate of the budding information superhighway, to convene a meeting of human rights groups, educators, regulatory agencies and technological experts "to develop strategies to combat the abuse of the superhighway by hate-mongers."

Cooper said that while racist, antisemitic and white supremacist messages are found on all of the four major commercial on-line services, he had received the most complaints from Prodigy users.

The commercial services have 5 million subscribers, including 2m. on Prodigy, but these figures are dwarfed by the 20m. computer users linked to the Internet global computer network.

Prodigy was the focus of controversy involving antisemitic postings three years ago and at the time worked with the Anti-Defamation League to craft a policy that forbids "blatant expressions of hatred" on its boards.

Ek said while this policy was in place, "we have more than 1.7m. notes on the board at any given time, and we can't read them all."

The Wiesenthal Center said it has tracked more than 50 separate hate groups on Internet and other online services over the past few months.

While Cooper acknowledged that sensitive free speech issues are involved in any attempt to restrict access and expressions of opinion in the booming medium, he believes that reasonable guidelines can be established.

"We're dealing with a new field and we have to come up with new answers," he said. By way of illustration, he added that Alexander Graham Bell never thought that the telephone would be used for obscene calls, but given their existence, technological means have been found to defend against such calls.

Right now, Cooper said, the Internet is getting to be like the Wild West, with no sheriff around to discourage evil doers.

Internet is also the latest battlefield for Middle East confrontations, according to a *Los Angeles Times* article by Sheldon Teitelbaum. One forum, called JPOL – for Jewish Politics – is the favorite platform for mostly "ultra-right-wing American Jews willing to fight to the last living Israeli," the article notes.

On P-NET, or Palestine Net, Palestinians and their supporters regularly lambast Yasser Arafat for selling out to Israel.

For both camps, as well as for Holocaust deniers and skinheads, Internet "is a strategically placed hilltop from which to lob computer equivalents of Katyusha rockets and artillery shells at the enemy," writes Teitelbaum.

Italy's Bossi faces revolt over Berlusconi

ROME (Reuter) – Northern League leader Umberto Bossi branded party critics of his bid to oust Italy's Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi "lice and pigs" yesterday as the League's Interior Minister Roberto Maroni joined the dissenters.

League officials said four of the party's five cabinet ministers, including Budget Minister Giancarlo Pagliarini, had advised their parliamentary group in writing yesterday they intended to resign from the center-right government.

But the fifth minister, leading league moderate Maroni, said he would neither resign his interior portfolio nor vote in favor of a motion of no confidence.

Bossi sounded what seemed to be the death knell for Berlusconi's seven-month-old government with the league and the hard right National Alliance on Saturday when he announced plans to submit a no-confidence motion in parliament.

The announcement drove the punch-drunk Italian lira to fresh lows of around 1,048 to the German mark yesterday as dealers again took fright at Italy's mounting political turmoil.

"This time Berlusconi has really reached the end of the line," Bossi wrote in a weekly newsletter.

Accusing the media mogul premier of acting like a "new Caesar", he said: "Italy did not vote for Berlusconi but for a program that Berlusconi has betrayed."

Bossi, however, reserved his most venomous criticism for parliamentarians from his own party who have openly opposed his drive to topple the prime minister.

"The league has never been for sale nor will it ever be, even though the League, like all parties, has been infiltrated by some opportunistic lice and pigs," Bossi wrote.

Maroni refused to bow to Bossi's verbal onslaught.

"You can't ask a minister to vote no-confidence in himself," Italian television quoted Maroni as saying during a visit to Alessandria, northwest Italy.

CNN ordered to apologize for airing Noriega tapes

MIAMI (AP) – Faced with a large fine, CNN agreed yesterday to tell viewers it made a mistake by broadcasting taped jailhouse conversations of Manuel Noriega as he awaited his drug trial.

As he prepared to sentence the network for contempt, US District Judge William Hoeveler gave CNN a choice: pay a substantial fine for contempt of court or broadcast an admission of error and pay only the costs of prosecution.

After a short recess, CNN agreed to admit it made a mistake and pay the lesser court costs. Hoeveler instructed the prosecution and defense attorneys to work out the wording of the broadcast.

Four years ago, the network quoted from leaked tapes of the deposed Panamanian leader's telephone conversations with lawyers. Noriega was later convicted of drug charges and is serving a 40-year sentence.

The Atlanta-based network argued it was legally entitled to broadcast the tapes because it had a journalistic responsibility to show what it suspected was government misconduct for taping Noriega's calls.

But Hoeveler, who presided at Noriega's trial, convicted CNN of contempt.

The fine could have been be as high as $100,000; the exact amount of court costs was not immediately disclosed.

Teen charged with tossing baby from fifth-floor window

NEW YORK (AP) – An autistic teenager charged with murder after allegedly throwing his 5-month-old nephew out a fifth-floor window has a fixation with throwing things from the apartment, police say.

Even as police interviewed him, 17-year-old Michael Holmes threw toiletries and other items out the window, Detective Capt. William Roe said Sunday. Neighbors also said he had a habit of tossing things, police said.

The youth was evaluated at a hospital after his arrest Saturday and was awaiting arraignment on second-degree murder charges in the death of the baby, Stanley Holmes.

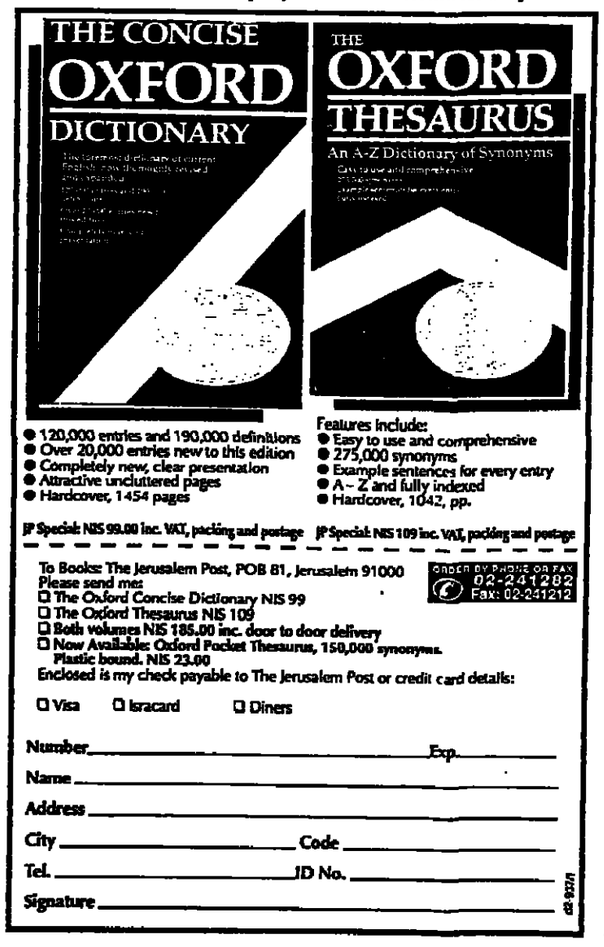
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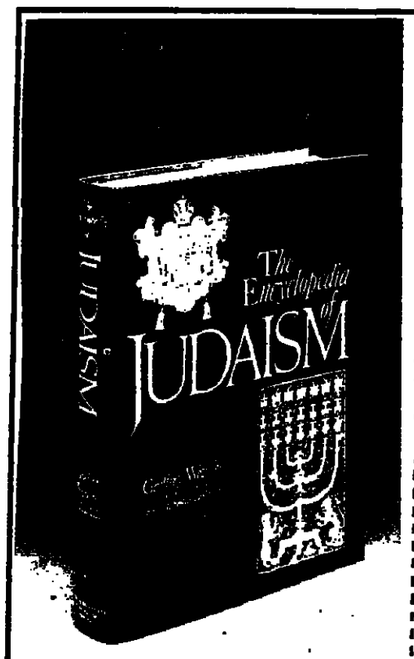
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ANC ready to change priorities

BLOEMFONTEIN (Reuter) – South Africa's ruling African National Congress, under grassroots attack, plans to stress the needs of its black constituency over reconciliation with minority whites, ANC leaders and delegates say.

ANC leaders, under fire from among the 3,000 delegates at the party's five-yearly national congress, say it is time to give precedence to the needs of the black majority over the fears of the white minority.

"We have to change our tactics. We definitely have to," said ANC information chief Jackson Mthembu at the congress, meeting for the first time since the ANC triumphed in the country's first all-race elections in April.

It is meeting under the banner: "From resistance to reconstruction and development."

But ordinary members are dissatisfied with the speed at which the ANC-led government of national unity is addressing the needs of millions of blacks after the overthrow of decades of apartheid rule.

The ANC needed a formula to maintain its policy of reconciliation while also delivering on election promises, said political science lecturer Sipho Maseko.

"You do not pay for talking about reconciliation. But you cannot afford to continue promising to provide jobs, houses and others," he said.

But Mthembu and other ANC leaders said delegates would be told to return to their constituencies and explain profound change was on the way, although "the wheels of governance turn slowly."

The congress, the first since 1991 shortly after the ANC was unbanned, broke into 11 commissions yesterday to discuss how to chart the way forward and fulfill elections pledges.

Major issues include integration of 17 former apartheid education departments, restoration of land taken from blacks under apartheid, the economy, crime and housing.

Delegates said the fiercest debate so far had been over accusations that the party leadership had moved too slowly to improve the quality of life for blacks, partly because it was afraid of alienating whites.

President Nelson Mandela and senior officials conceded in separate speeches and comments that the country's five-to-one black majority was growing increasingly impatient at the gap between political change and social transformation.

They said assuring whites they had nothing to fear from an ANC-dominated government had been necessary for the past seven months. But it was time to address the needs of the black majority.

"In as much as we succeeded in mobilizing the people for the victory we have scored, we have the responsibility to mobilize them to become active participants in improving their quality of life, in defending and advancing our newly-born democracy," Mandela said.



Ex-US president Jimmy Carter, along with his wife Rosalyn, meet Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic in Pale yesterday. (AP)

'Serbs agree to cease-fire'

PALE, Bosnia (Reuter) – US mediator Jimmy Carter said yesterday Bosnian Serb leaders had agreed to an immediate four-month cease-fire in their war with Moslems and were willing to discuss a Big Power peace plan.

The former US president said after several hours of talks with Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic he would return to Sarajevo to put the cease-fire proposal to the Moslem-led Bosnian government.

Carter told a news conference: "The Bosnian Serb side agreed to an immediate cease-fire and to negotiate a lasting cessation of hostilities.

"While a cease-fire is in place, Bosnian Serb leaders agree to discuss peace on the basis of the (Big Power) contact group plan at a mutually acceptable site."

He was expected to return to Sarajevo to resume contact with the Bosnian government either last night or this morning.

The US envoy, conducting a personal peace initiative in former Yugoslavia, said he had informed the White House.

The agreement was signed by Carter, Karadzic and Bosnian Serb Army commander General Ratko Mladic and promised to continue lifting Serb harassment of UN aid operations.

Karadzic has been resisting the peace plan since the summer, claiming that it would make his self-proclaimed Bosnian Serb republic economically and militarily unviable.

The plan would divide Bosnia, giving 51 percent to a federation of Moslems and Croats and the rest to the Serbs who control 70%.

The Serbs have been pressing for a permanent cease-fire for months, claiming that they have won the war, and appeared to have made a concession by agreeing to four months.

The Bosnian government has so far been prepared to sign only a three-month cease-fire, reserving itself the right to resume fighting to try to regain territory if talks fail.

Carter caused controversy at the start of his meeting when he said Bosnian Serbs wanted peace and were misunderstood by the American people.

He said in front of television cameras: "It may be that today is one of the rare chances to let the world know the truth and to explain the commitment of the Serbs to a peace agreement."

Bosnian Serbs, blamed as the aggressors in the war have rarely heard such endorsement from international negotiators.

Karadzic told Carter: "Many Americans believe we came from Serbia and invaded someone's territory. If that were the case, we would have been the aggressor. This is not the case. We are natives here. Here are our roots."

The American envoy replied: "I can't dispute your statement that (the American people) have primarily heard one side of the story."

He was immediately disavowed by the White House, where spokeswoman Dee Dee Myers said Serbs were the aggressors in the war and that Americans were fully informed.

Bosnian Serbs made up a third of the pre-war population in Bosnia while Moslems were 44% and Croats 17%.

Carter arrived in Pale from Sarajevo where he had talks with Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic on Sunday. He also met Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic and Croatian President Franjo Tudjman in Zagreb.

Russia closes in on Grozny

LAWRENCE SHEETS
GROZNY

RUSSIAN forces closed on Chechnya's capital Grozny in fierce fighting yesterday and the rebel region appealed for the peoples of the Caucasus to rise up against them.

Russian warplanes flew over Grozny yesterday evening and at least two loud explosions rocked the city center, witnesses said.

But Chechen television, broadcasting from a nearby tower which Russian planes missed in an early morning raid, went off the air immediately after the explosions.

A Reuter reporter in the city said explosions came from very close to the city center, blowing doors open and rattling window panes. He had no immediate word of casualties or damage.

The Russians pushed to within 10 km of Grozny by capturing Petropavlovskaya village to the northwest and drove Chechen fighters back to the edge of the city. They blasted other rebel positions with helicopter gunships, rockets and artillery.

The Russian government vowed to step up efforts to wipe out resistance in the mainly Moslem region which has defied it since declaring independence in 1991.

But the commander of Chechnya's armed forces made a dramatic appeal on local television for the rest of the Caucasus region on Russia's southern rim to rise up against the Russians.

"I call on the people of the entire Caucasus region to rise up and repel the aggressor," Colonel Aslan Maskhadov said in a television address.

The Chechens have issued such appeals before. But it was the first time they had done so since President Boris Yeltsin sent tanks and troops on December 11 to crush their independence bid.

Although the Caucasus could hardly muster a force comparable to Moscow's, the region has a history of dogged defiance and holding out against the odds.

One organization, the Confederation of the North Caucasus Peoples, which has a small number of loosely-organized military groups, warned Moscow it would mobilize its units if the Russians did not withdraw from Chechnya by Decemeber 21.

Fighting yesterday was some of the worst since the Russian troops entered Chechnya, a region of about one million people.

This reporter saw intense artillery exchanges outside Grozny and the Russians were tightening their noose around the city, which they have pledged not to storm.

Earlier the Russians and Chechens fought fierce battles around the settlement of Dolinskoye, 35 km to the northwest of Grozny.

The Russians used helicopter gunships, rockets and artillery, flattening some houses and setting others ablaze. They managed to surround the settlement.

In early morning bombing raids, Russian warplanes tried unsuccessfully to knock out Grozny's television tower and stop Dudayev making rallying broadcasts.

A Chechen official said fighter-bombers had also targeted Dudayev's residence in the suburb of Tashkala, but the bombs missed and landed in empty fields.

The air raids were the first to strike near the heart of Grozny since Russia sent in troops. "They are trying to strangle our freedom at any cost," a Dudayev aide said.

In Moscow, Yeltsin left hospital for the first time since ordering troops into Chechnya. Interfax news agency quoted the president's press service as saying Yeltsin, who underwent an operation on his nose, went immediately to one of his residences.

A meeting of Russian government members and parliamentary leaders pledged to intensify action "to eliminate and disarm illegal armed groups" in Chechnya, Interfax news agency said. (Reuter)

NATO chiefs mull over Bosnia

THE HAGUE (Reuter) – NATO's military heads met in The Hague yesterday to look at ways of shoring up the UN's tattered mission in Bosnia and restoring morale among humiliated peacekeeping troops.

NATO diplomatic sources said the meeting could be one of the last chances of saving the mission and avoiding a withdrawal which would have disastrous consequences for the UN's reputation and operations worldwide.

"Our soldiers on the ground are in a stalemate situation, sometimes they are denied freedom of movement. That is unacceptable of course," Dutch military spokesman Navy Captain Frits Olivier told reporters.

He said the meeting started with a briefing by the commander of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in former Yugoslavia, French General Bertrand de Lapresle.

"General de Lapresle is giving a briefing on the situation in former Yugoslavia. They will then identify the main problems and discuss what measures can be taken," Olivier added.

Defense ministers summoned the chiefs of staff after endorsing contingency plans to pull out the peacekeepers in the event of a final collapse of the mission, now facing near-daily humiliations.

No suspect found in White House shooting

WASHINGTON (AP) – The Secret Service has found the bullets – but not the person who shot them – in the latest shooting at the White House.

Someone fired at least four shots from behind the White House early Saturday morning, leaving bullets in the State Dining Room, beneath a Christmas tree outside the president's back door, on the rear driveway and on a landing off the balcony.

President Clinton and his family were asleep one floor above the State Dining Room level. They were never in danger, the Secret Service said.

Investigators said there were few clues in the case and no description of a suspect.

"If somebody out there starts bragging, maybe we'll get somebody," said one law enforcement official, speaking on condition of anonymity. "Right now, we have nothing to go on."

The Secret Service is still reviewing security after a small plane crashed on the south grounds in September and a gunman sprayed the front of the White House less than two months ago.

In the previous shooting, one bullet broke through a window of the press room in the West Wing.

Presidential spokeswoman Dee Dee Myers said yesterday there was no evidence to suggest this shooting and the one in October were related.

"I think it's random incidents. I think it's no different than being on any street corner in America."

Saturday's shooting left a bullet in the executive mansion, where the president lives. It pierced the dining room window a few feet above where the plane crashed "and just fell near the window – plop," the official said.

Investigators did not find the bullet at first because the hole was behind a Christmas wreath.

Another bullet was found beneath a Christmas tree just outside the Diplomatic Entrance. It left a skid mark on the ground before coming to rest on the ground.

A third bullet was found on the driveway nearby. A fourth came to rest on a landing just off the balcony.

Mooning in the Christmas spirit

LONDON (Reuter) – British judge Sir Alan Ward was not amused when Annarita Muraglia wished him Happy Christmas.

When Ward refused yesterday to free her from a year-long sentence for contempt of court, Muraglia pulled down her trousers to reveal the words "Happy Christmas" written in bold letters across her bare bottom.

Ward, who jailed Muraglia three weeks ago for smashing up the courtroom and attacking officials during a child care hearing, warned her that "mooning" was also a contempt of court.

Enraged Liberians demand peace

MONROVIA (AP) – In a spontaneous but controlled show of rage against their country's warlords, thousands of Liberians marched through the streets of the capital yesterday vowing to lynch faction leaders if new peace talks fail.

Representatives of the seven warring factions, heading to Ghana for today's talks, had to be spirited to the airport in a United Nations bus instead of their usual vehicles to evade mobs who waved palm fronds for peace but threatened violent reprisals.

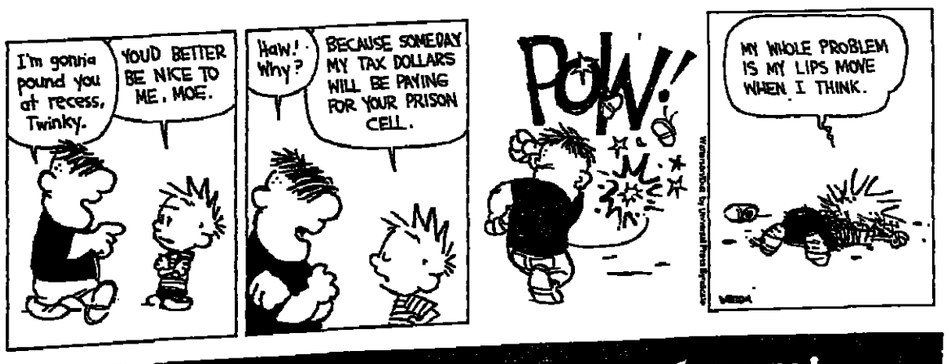
"They will not come back here. They will not live," said protester Frank Taylor, referring to the warring leaders.

Soldiers of the eight-nation West African peacekeeping force that controls Monrovia kept close watch but did not intervene in the peaceful demonstrations.

Monrovia residents said it was the first time civilians had taken such action since the war's start, and it showed the increased anger, frustration and fear in the city as the war's five-year anniversary approaches. Rebel leader Charles Taylor launched the war against dictator Samuel Doe on Christmas Eve in 1989.

Doe was overthrown and killed, but the war has evolved into a tribal conflict with seven factions. Several peace accords have failed.

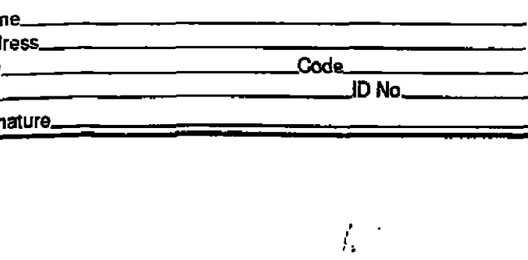
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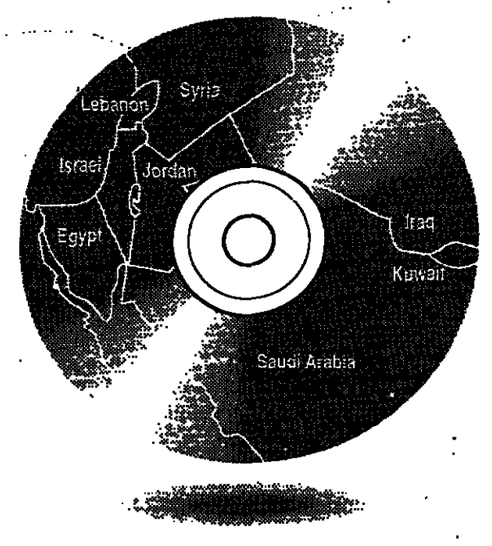


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Pointless posturing

THERE is no excuse for North Korea dragging its feet over the case of the US helicopter which strayed into its territory, but the event is probably typical of this closed and secretive communist dictatorship. As used to be the case in other such paranoid states, the first thought that enters the minds of the rulers is not how quickly they can clear up a minor international incident, but how much propaganda they can squeeze out of it.

In this case, any attempt to turn an unfortunate incident into diplomatic or even real gold is likely to backfire. The US Army scout helicopter strayed into the North's air space probably because of pilot "white out" disorientation – confusion caused by the snow-covered landscape merging into a misty sky. It was either forced to make an emergency landing or was shot down. One pilot died and one is reportedly alive.

The first announcement from the North Koreans was a boastful claim to have shot down an "enemy aircraft." Statements since then have been confusing and contradictory as it became clear the shooting down of an unarmed, lost training flight hardly adds up to a military achievement. It is always difficult to understand how minds work in these tight military and political bureaucracies and to wonder what possible advantage lies in playing an everyday accident for international stakes.

The mindset provides a constant reminder that leaders who represent no one but themselves continue to threaten world stability. A more trigger-happy US president than Bill Clinton could easily feel justified in responding aggressively to the North Korean's hostile action – the Vietnam War escalated with just such a response to a similar naval incident in the Gulf of Tonkin.

However, in this case North Korea probably has more to lose than gain by antagonizing Washington. The helicopter incident comes only a few weeks after a US agreement on the North's nuclear program that will bring billions of dollars in aid to the wrecked Stalinist economy. There have also been signs the North would like to break out of its self-generated international isolation in a world that no longer has to tolerate posturing from the remaining communist minnows.

The North Koreans should also be aware that the Republican Congress is unlikely to take kindly to the surviving airman and his dead companion being used as pawns over the American Christmas season.

Make haste slowly

BEFORE the Bosnian conflict is finished, it may wreak more havoc than it has already done on European stability and the reputations of major Western organizations. Even as the United Nations, NATO and the Conference on European Security and Cooperation have seen their credibility crumble, another Bosnia-generated row threatens to divide newly united Germany – politically, if not physically. The issue in question is whether Germany should at last emerge from its post-war pacifism and again take up arms in international theaters of operation – such as Bosnia.

The question of German participation in any further allied actions in Bosnia seems likely to set those allies against the wishes of the German people and could rock the shaky foundations of Helmut Kohl's government. Germany's NATO allies have been saying that since Germany was perfectly happy to be protected by NATO during the Cold War, it should now be more forthcoming in playing its part in defense matters concerning Europe and the West.

They argue that Germany's credentials as a democracy are now quite secure and while the re-appearance of German uniforms and military symbols in war zones may take a little getting used to, the time has come to bite the bullet and face the modern world. A tentative step was taken when President Mitterrand invited German units to parade in the Champs Elysee during Bastille Day celebrations last July. The odd and uneasy vibrations the harmless scene aroused in ordinary people across Europe may be a warning to NATO generals and defense ministers to make haste slowly on this matter.

Kohl often seems greedy for a verdict of history that he was the man standing at the crossroads directing a new German destiny – democracy, unity and, it seems, a place of equal military might beside its allies. Kohl has been pushing Germany to a bigger role in world affairs ever since the 1990 reunification. Both he and his foreign minister have been persuading more reluctant politicians to fight harder for a permanent German seat on the UN Security Council – a golden dream of Japan also.

The German people, as poll after poll reveals, have little interest in any of these international toys. They have no taste for the sight of German troops going into action in distant trouble spots, they have no ambitions to host the UN talk show. Kohl tends to see many recent international developments as golden opportunities to assert Germany's stature on the world stage – the Yugoslav conflict and NATO's involvement being the most recent.

However, the German public may be right – the last thing the country needs is any more visions of greatness, no matter how impeccable the democrat pushing them. Kohl gave an enthusiastic response to NATO's request for Germany's superbly equipped Tornado warplanes to be put on the Bosnia air-support roster. It has fizzled somewhat since he barely scraped home with a tiny majority in October's parliamentary elections.

Kohl would be wise to rest now on the laurels of his popularity and his remarkable achievements as chancellor. If the Germans are happy without feeling self-important internationally, why not let them be? The present pacifist stance of the public is a blessing, not a curse. Germans should not be goaded by accusations of selfishness or unreliability as a NATO partner. They would do well to remember that German's overhasty recognition of Croatia's independence was at least one of the many sparks that lit the ethnic conflagration in former Yugoslavia in the first place.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CARNAGE ON THE ROADS

Sir, – The past three weeks have left 29 people dead and 124 seriously injured on our roads. In the light of this, we find your motoring correspondent Joel Gordin's *dismissive* attitude towards the various bodies including voluntarily organizations in the field of road safety reprehensible ("Road-safety advocates hurt the cause by pushing laws that won't work," December 1).

Whilst we cannot respond on behalf of other organizations, Metuna would like to state that the question of excessive speed is a priority, not an "obsession" (sic). Our aims and objectives have been clearly stated in the material he purports to have received. Metuna is dedicated to reducing death and serious injury caused mainly by irresponsible driving behavior. Our role is to create public awareness, to disseminate material and to act as liaison in the towns, in all of which we have members.

Our more than 1,000 members from around the country are primarily from English-speaking backgrounds. The sabra population to whom we have reached out believe that the government bears the total responsibility for road safety. Our material is produced in both Hebrew and English.

ZELDA HARRIS,
Spokesperson, Metuna
Netanya.

WEST BANK WITHDRAWAL

Sir, – Secretary of State Warren Christopher has publicly sympathized with those in Israel inclined to delay further the troop withdrawals from the West Bank which, pursuant to the Declaration of Principles, should have occurred this past July. The ostensible reason for further delay is the attacks on Israelis which have occurred since Israel failed to meet its withdrawal commitment, which was clearly a principal inducement in the PLO's decision to enter into the Declaration of Principles notwithstanding the many bitter pills it required Palestinians to swallow.

Mr. Christopher stated in Jerusalem on December 6 that "unless there's security, it's clear that the other commitments cannot be met." This might be translated as "until none of the two million Palestinians under occupation offers any violent resistance to the occupation of their country, Israel cannot be expected to take any steps which might suggest a willingness to end the occupation peacefully."

Such "logic" dangerously confuses cause and effect, and, if pursued by Israel with American support, would condemn this "peace process" to an explosive collapse which would do nothing to enhance anyone's security.

JOHN V. WHITBECK
Paris.

DISABLED PENSIONERS

Sir, – It is nearly three years since I began appealing to the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs and various Knesset members for the reforms necessary to provide more than a poverty-level income for disabled pensioners who have no other means of support.

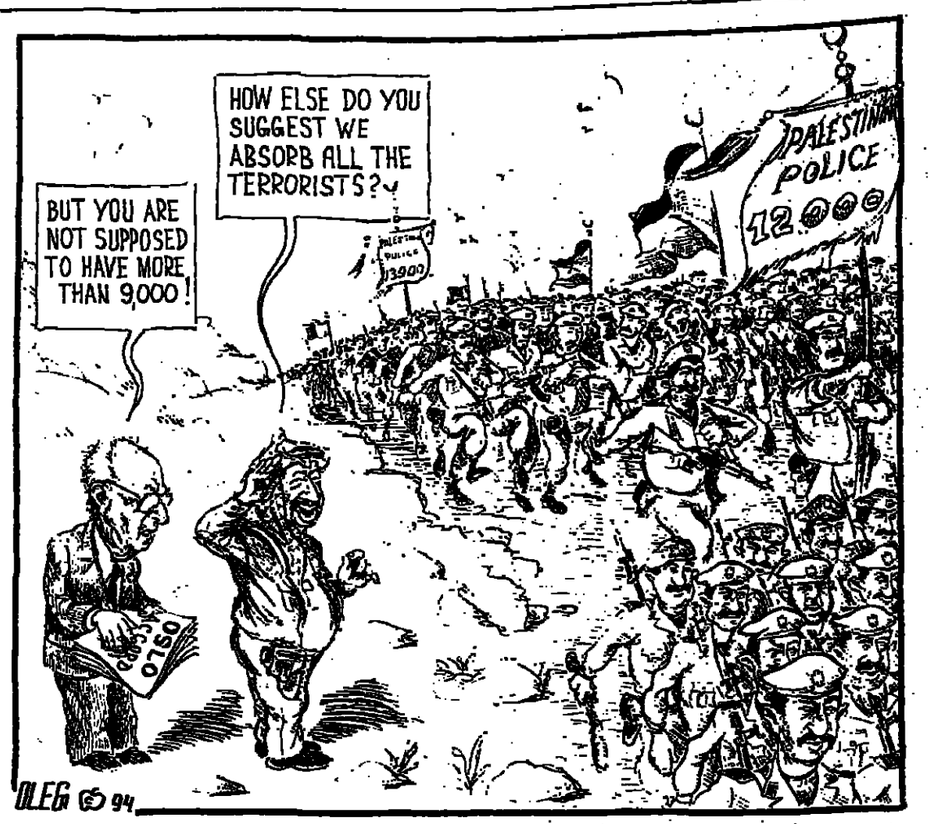
Today, the maximum net pension for a disabled single is only NIS 921 per month, and disabled citizens who receive the full pension are not entitled to any of the guaranteed income supplements or TV license-fee exemptions provided by law to other, able-bodied citizens.

The ministry simply ignored my numerous inquiries and forwarded each of my letters to the National Insurance Institute, despite the fact that the NII keeps sending the same reply – pension legislation is not within its jurisdiction.

Labor and Social Affairs Minister Namir's "assistance" and "advisers" have thus successfully avoided even one direct, pertinent response to an issue that is critical to the wellbeing of one of the nation's weakest and most neglected populations. This can only be interpreted as deliberate indifference.

While the ministry is busy setting new standards in bureaucratic incompetence, disabled pensioners dependent on the state are living in poverty, indignity and second-class citizenship – and will continue to do so until appropriate legislation is passed.

ARLENE COHEN
Kiryat Motzkin.



A treaty isn't everything

IRVING KETT

IN THE summer of 1973 I met an Israeli officer, Meir Nitzan, at Fort Lee, Virginia. We were then both lieutenant colonels at the US Army logistical school. There had been more than a hint of impending war in the Middle East.

Yet in my discussions of the subject, Nitzan, as was characteristic of Israeli military thinking, had supreme confidence in the inability of the Arabs to launch an attack against Israel.

At that time Prime Minister Rabin was Israel's ambassador to the US. No Israeli government official was *more adamant than* Rabin in asserting that neither Egypt nor Syria was capable of attacking Israel – a concept to which the entire Israeli General Staff subscribed.

Subsequent events proved the near-catastrophic miscalculation of Arab intentions and power.

It was the borders inherited from the Six Day War that saved Israel, and not US military support. Yet every Israeli government since that of Menachem Begin has been willing to barter away preciously won territory that affords defense in depth.

The next time I met Meir Nitzan was in 1979. I had come to Israel as a colonel in the US Army Engineers' Corps to help supervise the construction of two high-performance air bases in the Negev, under the terms of the Camp David accords. Meir Nitzan was then a brigadier-general in Israel's Ordinance Corps.

He acknowledged the blunders committed prior to the Yom Kippur War, assuring me that the errors of overconfidence and optimistic assessments of Arab intentions would never be repeated.

Nitzan has been the mayor of Rishon Lezion for many years. The Labor Party of which he became a member after retiring from the IDF in 1982, is now committed to a new "concept," one infinitely more threatening to the survival of the state.

The dogmatic judgment that dominated Israeli thinking prior to the outbreak of the 1973 war now seems to have infected large segments of society.

The way Israel can work for peace is to stay strong and prepare for war

In their sincere yearning for peace, some Israelis seem to have lost sight of two fundamental facts. Israel cannot buy peace with appeasement; and security must take precedence over formal peace treaties.

THE ONLY way Israel can realistically work for peace is to remain strong and prepare for war. Only strength can afford Israel the luxury of choosing between war and peace.

A crucial element in visible combat power to deter aggression is defensible borders. Today Israel's defense lines are just about acceptable, except on the Lebanese border.

Lebanon has for years eschewed control over the area south of the Awali River. Another factor that should concern the defense establishment is the Syrian army's de facto control of Lebanon.

Elementary common sense dictates that Israel deploy up to the Litani River and wield military control up to the Awali River by artillery fire and armored patrols. The Awali is approximately 25 kilometers north and roughly parallel to the Litani.

Israel should take this step now, both to protect northern Israel adequately and as a strategic answer to the powerful Syrian presence in Lebanon. This recommendation was included in the US Army War College Study of 1974 to determine borders that Israel requires for minimal security, despite the vigorous objections of the State Department.

Israel must bear in mind that the US has *far more important* interests in the Middle East than the security or even the continued existence of Israel.

All of Israel's neighbors have already been given large parts of the country or have put forth additional territorial demands. Israel should resolve to preserve its remaining territorial integrity, and make some justifiable claims of its own.

In such a defensive territorial configuration, coupled with constant vigilance and patriotic resolve, the people of Israel may reasonably look forward to defending themselves successfully against further Arab aggression.

The writer is a retired US Army colonel.

Rabbinate versus Creation

SHULAMITH HAREVEN

IF the halachic authorities of the Rabbinical Council have made it their mission to sever the nation completely from tradition and Halacha, they appear to be succeeding – especially in light of their vigorous opposition to the Supreme Court ruling on homosexuals' rights.

Some 10 percent of the population are men and women born with a sexual orientation that differs from most people's. This is neither emotional deviation nor conscious choice; it is a genetic fact, congenital and unchangeable, like eye color.

Are these rabbinical authorities appealing against Creation? Or the morning prayer thanking God who made everyone "according to His will"? Do they believe that the Supreme Court's *ruling will* increase or reduce the homosexuals born among us by even one?

Are they proposing that homosexuals lead a life of abstinence, or a forced marital life with a partner who repulses them?

Had the Rabbinical Council had the courage to rule in the traditional spirit of the Moroccan rabbis – to try and correlate Halacha with reality – they would assuredly have found an honorable way out in this case.

They might have said, according to their world view, that the ban on males engaging in sexual relations with other males doesn't relate to those born homosexual, since they have no choice; and that the biblical prohibition applies to heterosexuals engaging in such relations when they do have a choice – as a ritual act ("an abomination") as in olden times, or to satisfy their lust ("with alien peoples").

The Rabbinical Council knows that the basis of the prohibition is the general ban on wantonly wasting seed for any purpose other than procreation; this is why there is no biblical prohibition on lesbian relations, where no seed is spilled. Only during the Second Temple period (see *Masechet Yevamot*) are "women intertwined with each other" forbidden as wives for the priestly tribe.

But the whole question of procreation and "continuing the Jewish family" does not apply to homosexual couples – to their own deep regret, for they too often desire children. And if the argument is about eroding values and licentiousness, more licentiousness and adultery may often be found in a regular couple than in a loving and faithful homosexual one.

Halachic authorities are doing a good job of driving people away from Jewish tradition

IN ONE way or another, the council could have found a way out. But to this day, the rabbis haven't understood that the issue here isn't [illegible]rality, transgression or sexual lic[illegible]isness, but Creation – and that [illegible]hat they are challenging.

Current knowledge poses questions that were unknown in biblical times. That is why there is such a great need for courageous *new halachic rulings, rulings* that people "can live with."

Just as the Bible did not – and could not – recognize the proofs of congenital homosexuality, it had no knowledge of male infertility, organ transplants, in vitro fertilization, psychological treatment, or trans-continental flights, which also traverse time zones.

The religious community needs these things too, and wise rabbis have been able to find halachic solutions.

The current rabbinate's refusal to recognize an issue that affects a tenth of the population, its obduracy in regarding homosexuality as a "*transgression*" instead of understanding that those concerned have no other choice, and the absurd demand that legal discrimination be practiced against 10 percent of us – all this does more than testify to its fear in issuing halachic rulings, a fear that is characteristic of weak rabbinates.

It is also a sure recipe for distancing many people from everything connected with religion, Halacha and tradition, simply because they feel it really doesn't relate to them any more.

If that is the rabbinate's intention, their success is assured. But where has their wisdom gone?

The writer is an author who lives in Jerusalem. Her latest book, After Childhood, *has just been published by Dvir. (Courtesy of Yediot Aharonot)*

Royal guilt

CHAIM PEARL

IN his speech to the Knesset last Wednesday, Foreign Minister Peres said there were several things in King David's career to which he objected. One was David's adultery with Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah.

There was an immediate uproar in the House.

It is hard to understand why some members of the religious parties got so upset about what Peres said. One member became so distraught that his blood pressure shot up and he needed medical treatment.

The story of David's adulterous behavior is clearly and unambiguously related in II Samuel 11-12. The narrative is crystal clear and leaves no room for hair-splitting.

David is on his rooftop when he sees the beautiful Bathsheba bathing in a nearby house. Although he learns that she is the wife of one of his soldiers, Uriah the Hittite, he commits adultery with her. Shortly afterwards, *Bathsheba informs the king that* she is pregnant. At this point, David adds one heinous crime to another.

David's army is at war with the Ammonites, and he fetches Uriah home so that, in due course, he can be named father of the newborn. But Uriah refuses to stay, explaining that war is no time for him to enjoy domesticity.

Why were some MKs so upset by what Shimon Peres said about King David?

David then sends him back to the war, instructing his general to position Uriah at the very front of the battle and leave him exposed to the enemy.

In a short time, the loyal Uriah is killed by the Ammonites. The king takes Bathsheba into his palace and she becomes his wife.

That biblical chapter ends with the telling sentence. "But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord" (11:27).

BUT APPARENTLY it does not displease some members of the religious parties in the Knesset.

People who attempt to defend David often trot out the famous talmudic statement, "Whoever says that David sinned is mistaken." (Shab. 56a.)

The idea (not a general rabbinic opinion) is that David only contemplated lying with Bathsheba, but didn't succumb to his lust. Then it is observed that there was a law by which soldiers gave their wives a conditional divorce in case they didn't return from battle; and thus Bathsheba was a divorcee.

Both notions are so weak as to be hardly worth examining. The first goes against the clear biblical text: "And [David] lay with her.... And the woman conceived." (11:4-5.)

The second is even worse in view of David's obvious part in bringing about Uriah's death. Crudely put, it was murder by remote control, after the king's adultery with Bathsheba while her husband was still alive.

Perhaps the most telling argument against any attempt at apologetics is in the very next chapter, in which the prophet Nathan sternly rebukes David, in the name of God, using the well-known parable of the rich man, who owned a large flock, and the poor man, who has a single, cherished sheep (II Sam. 12).

The entire chapter is worth studying as a brilliant example of the high moral standards the Bible sets. No one, not even King David, is above the law and the Bible's ethical teaching.

The kindest thing that can be said about David and his sin is that he acknowledges his guilt and is full of remorse over what he has done. Judaism stresses the effectiveness of sincere repentance, open to everyone, however grievous the sin.

In the light of that important religious value, it may be said that King David ultimately finds atonement and reconciliation in the eyes of God and in the opinion of his people.

But to deny the gravity of his offense or attempt to whitewash him with convoluted apologetics is to deny the truth of the Bible and to cast aspersions on its ethical and moral teachings.

The writer is associate editor of The Jewish Bible Quarterly.

Telling Jewish tales in public

HELEN KAYE

FOR a troupe of actors, the Besht Tellers were awfully bashful about their show, which is based on Jewish stories.

"We were very concerned about doing all this Jewish stuff in public, because it's the English [Jewish] disease, you know, not to do anything overtly Jewish in public," says Robbie Gringras, who along with Danny Scheinmann has brought *Telling Tales* here.

Success helped overcome their fears.

Telling Tales started in 1991 at the Etcetera Theater in Camden, London, and soon there wasn't a ticket to be had.

"People were saying, 'Isn't there a song here?' so gradually we put all the Jewish material back," says Gringras. "The show seems to have hit a chord with a new generation of Jews in Britain. They're less ashamed of being Jewish."

Audiences kept coming. So did the reviewers, who said things like "a dour cynical world needs more of their kind" or "superlative throughout."

Telling Tales added another month onto its run at the bigger King's Head Theater, and Gringras finally gave up his teaching job.

Teaching, you ask? Ah, yes. Beginning at the beginning is always a good idea.

Well then. Gringras is 28. He has curly brown hair and bright lively brown eyes, and looks like an elf is supposed to look. A former Habonim youth movement activist (he ran Habonim in Birmingham while at Oxford), he's been to Israel many times, but this is his first visit since 1986.

He and Scheinmann have been friends since their boyhood in Manchester.

Scheinmann trained as an actor from the start, but Gringras – after his graduation in English literature from Oxford – went into drama, "because I wanted to be a drama teacher. I came to London to run a workshop for young offenders."

Scheinmann also gravitated to London, and the two started working together – first in the Hindu epic, *The Mahabharata*, and then, because Gringras has always loved storytelling, doing evenings together.

Then they met director Rebecca Wolman, and Besht Tellers was born.

The name is a play on words, but it's also the acronym for the founder of Hassidism, the Ba'al Shem Tov (Master of the Good Name), "because I'd been reading a lot of hassidic tales."

And they had to find a name for the company because they had devised their *Telling Tales*, which was supposed to play in Jewish community centers.

"Besides, *hassidut* is about encounters between people that will bring out the Divine Spark, and our theater is about encounters between audience and actors," says Gringras.

"Our performances aren't so much about theater technique as they are about the spark that leaps between the stage and the audience."

That same theater technique has earned raves from the critics, but it developed from Besht Tellers' trip to Russia to March in 1991, when they performed in Russian in seven cities on a journey that took them 14,500 kilometers.



Success has eased the fears of Besht-men Robbie Gringras (right) and Danny Scheinmann about being 'too Jewish.'

They went "because it was hard to be a Jew in Russia, even though that was the time of mass emigration, and we thought it would be a good idea to take the show there.

"Originally we were going to do only a few key phrases in Russian, so we had to develop physical and musical symbols that would tell the story."

Coming back, the show went into the Etcetera, and eventually ended up at the Arts Theater in the West End last year.

So now you know why Robbie Gringras gave up teaching. But as he says, "I'm still a bit astonished at making a living from *Telling Tales*."

Telling Tales will be performed today in Kfar Sava, Thursday in Nahariya and Saturday at ZOA House in Tel Aviv.

Joni's no baloney

NEW RELEASES

TIRZAH AGASSI

JONI Mitchell albums were once maps charted by a female Marco Polo of consciousness.

Her latest release, *Turbulent Indigo* (Hed Arzi), is not on a par with her classics, but Mitchell *is* back in the saddle with a firm sense of direction.

Her struggle to right herself is both interesting and worthy of respect, and if you've ever loved Joni Mitchell, it's a good idea to tune in.

Joni, like the world at large, is going through hard times. Her marriage is dead and it's time to pick up the pieces.

"Oh you tireless watcher" she addressed God on "The Sire of Sorrow (Job's Sad Song)," the album's final cut. "What have I done to you?/ That you make everything I dread and everything I fear come true?"

The song is delivered with her old, naked honesty. You have to credit her courage, and surely it will provide great comfort to others who feel equally tried. Even those who are on better terms with their Maker will experience a gut response. It is music which opens one up.

"Sex Kills" is her strongest and most timely statement as her voice, roughened by years of chain smoking, takes on the task of singing out to her listeners' consciences. Lyrics like "Governed by greed and lust?/Just the strong doing what they can/And the weak suffering what they must?" may be somewhat obvious, like a blunt instrument, but she can still be mighty sharp. "And sex sells everything/And sex kills" is delivered with stiletto-like precision.

It is to her credit that Mitchell has avoided the "let's forget inner-city blacks and just focus on saving endangered species with fur and feathers" backpedaling prevalent among many other baby-boom rockers. However, she was always the most illuminating in the sharing of her own experience of life and love. When she did this she was a magnificent social-psychologist cum historian.

On this album, Mitchell is not yet ready to tell all about her most recent disappointment. What made her so great in her heyday was her ability to take notes as she rushed in where angels fear to tread.

Instead of hiding out in Birkenstocks and hairy legs like other feminists, she painted her toenails and did coke with the boys, jumping into the fray and coming up with brilliant lines like "Those cannibals of shuck and jive/ They'll eat a working girl like her alive." The problem was in learning how to avoid being eaten up alive herself.

Turbulent Indigo, which features a cover portrait of Mitchell as a bandaged Van Gogh, opens with "Sunny Sunday," a song about a trapped woman who needs "one little victory" to get out of a set-up that sounds like chapter 2 of the nightmare drawn up some 20 years ago in *The Hissing of Summer Lawns*.

"Last Chance Lost" performed together with estranged husband Larry Klein, who also co-produced, is supposed to have some sort of jazzy distance from the fray. But it just sounds kind of abstract and, to my ears, embarrassing.

Mitchell is most moving on the subject of womanhood in "The Magdalene Laundries," a song about an Irish work convent for fallen women. When she cries out against being branded a "Jezebel," you *hear* her. "Not to Blame," a song about wife-beating, is also clear in its refusal to blame the victim.



Mitchell's voice, roughened by years of chain smoking, has kept its naked honesty. (G. Heisler)

It's an important step. I just wish she'd get on with it and finally exorcise the demon of masochism with which she has publicly struggled for so long. Now *that* would lead to some musical masterpieces.

In the meantime the album's best song, the only one with much of a beat, is "How Do You Stop," a cover of a number originally done by funk master James Brown.

Seal sings the sweetest backup as Joni asks "How do you stop/ Love from slipping away?/How do you stop/Before it's too late?" The song, with its catchy refrain, has a refreshing light touch – an approach that is always a good one when trying to save love.

An accent on comedy

THEATER REVIEW

NAOMI DOUDAI

AS YOU LIKE IT

By William Shakespeare. Direction, Declan Donnellan. Design, Nick Ormerod. Music, Paddy Cunneen. Cheek By Jowl at the Cameri Theater, Tel Aviv.

Orlando ..... Scott Handy
The two Dukes ..... David Hobbs
Rosalind ..... Adrian Lester
Celia ..... Simon Coates

"As we do trust they'll end, in true delights." So saith the Duke in *As You Like It*, but in fact there is no end of delight in this enchanting production.

Here is starkly simplified Shakespeare in which attention is diverted from the set (sans scenery, sans props for the first half; only the scantiest suggestion of them in the second) to the actor and the text. This exposes a rich and brilliantly compelling vein of comedy hitherto dormant in the staging of the works.

Never has Elizabethan ribaldry and revelry rung so true or roused such unrepressed hilarity in a contemporary audience.

With all their virtuosity and versatility, this is not merely a company of gay clowns. With their ironic, unabashed treatment of the pastoral convention and the dream world of the forest, they release the play from the sentimentalization that too often distorts it, to reveal the chaotic tangle of hidden sexual desire that truly informs it.

The homosexual (male and female) undercurrents are subtly but unmistakably stated as in the text, and their loves unashamedly consummated. If there was any doubt as to the veracity of this or the return to the men-as-women Shakespearean casting, Rosalind's "if I were a woman" epilogue must finally remove it.

The actors were all superb, as was the director, with his pregnant pauses and use of consummate choreographers. Adrian Lester made for a refreshing Rosalind, Simon Coates an earnestly convincing Celia, Richard Cant a cute Audrey, and Wayne Cater a phenomenally funny Phoebe.

Marvelous in the male roles were Scott Handy, a vibrant Orlando, David Hobbs doubling for both Dukes, and Michael Gardiner as Jaques.

If even a few of our young Israeli actors were to emulate the devotion of this dedicated group, it might save our theater from its state of galloping vulgarization.

Curtain rises on Fellini

DANCE

DORA SOWDEN

THIS year's Curtain Up at the Suzanne Dellal Theater (December 10-14) in Tel Aviv proved to be different. In five programs of more than a dozen items, choreographers were given a theme – filmmaker Federico Fellini – on which to set their works. The result was a kind of a game.

On the first night, nine young people in elaborate, bizarre flame-red dress marked Fellini's Florentine connections and a major-domo called out the names of worthies as they entered the auditorium.

In a work choreographed by veteran actress-dancer Deborah Bertonoff and Daniela Michaeli, Bertonoff brought in her inimitable touch. She danced a dream fantasy about a clown (she even put on a little red nose and a coat with pompoms) and did a pas-de-deux with a young man. It was delightful.

There were other good performances: soloist Vera Montero of Portugal danced a hysterical portrait of alienation of which the title told much: "Perhaps We Could Dance First and Think Afterwards"; and Tero Sarinen of Finland performed a solo he had done here before: as a white-faced puppet wearing a tutu, as agile and striking as ever.

Tamar Borer made good use of a piano and pianist to show her skills. Intimations of Fellini were evident in other works, but where his craziness always had cohesive logic, in these there were more miming and movement than dance.

In Sharon Kashi's work there were glimpses of beauty – and the music of Albinoni surely helped. Galia Fridkin and David Tichnell each aimed at sophistication and humor and Ofra Levi overdressed her rather pretentious group work.

In the final program Anat Assulin created a fun piece and nine members of the Kibbutz Dance Company's workshop made it so – with perhaps a bit too much showoff, since 1,000 balloons that popped or flew skywards don't really equal 1,000 clowns.

Re-discovering of the secret of Beethoven's seventh

CONCERT ROUNDUP

THE second subscription concert of the Israel Symphony Orchestra, Rishon Lezion, was a rather mixed affair. It started with an appealing performance of Schubert's "Unfinished" Symphony, continued with a rendition of Mozart's D minor Piano Concerto, which was an affront to the intelligence, and closed with Beethoven's Seventh Symphony, which started in an undefinable manner but gained momentum and closed with aplomb.

The real surprise of the evening was the hitherto completely unknown conductor Wolfgang Göennenwein, who not only provided imaginative and creative musicianship but who elicited from the orchestra well balanced sonorities and a really remarkable exactitude of string intonations.

After this very promising start there was calamity. The pianist, Gulsin Onay, still seems in her early stage of musical training, playing Mozart's divine D minor concerto like an untalented conservatory student.

Finally the concert offered another war-horse – Beethoven's Seventh, which, in order not to become routine, demands an interpretation containing unmistakable substance. Göennenwein's rendition did contain occasional substance but the movements were uneven. The first seemed vague, its character a pretense, but from the second onwards, Göennenwein improved remarkably. In the last, he seemed to have discovered, finally, the secret. The finale reminded one of Alfred Einstein's famous definition of the symphony as the "apotheosis of dance."

Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center, December 11. ***Benjamin Bar-Am***

PIANIST Uriel Tsahor's soft, caressing touch in the lyrical passages of Khatchaturian's piano concerto, in the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra's Subscription Concert No. 3, created a welcome, sharp contrast with the work's energetic, forceful opening and concluding movements, rendered with relentless power of conviction.

The Polish conductor Jerzy Maksymiuk elicited the fascinating, intricate polyphonic textures of Britten's Prelude and Fugue op. 29 with spellbinding clarity.

His ability to build up tension leading to climactic relief was demonstrated in Beethoven's Seventh, one of the composer's most energy-charged orchestral works. Accomplishing this, all the rest seemed to fall into place naturally – a well-balanced sound, consolidated playing, and tempi sounding just as they should.

Jerusalem Theater, December 14. ***Ury Eppstein***

A FORMIDABLE array of a dozen or more recorder flutes, in all sizes and shapes, attracted the audience's attention before the members of the Dutch Lucky Stardust Quartet (Karel van Steenhoven, Daniel Bruggen, Bertho Driever, Paul Leenhouts) mounted the stage in the Authentica Series' Concert No. 4.

Four recorder flutists don't necessarily promise monotony of sound. Variety was provided, in tonal quality as well as range, by the difference of styles, from the Renaissance of Marenzio and Sweelinck to the Baroque of Vivaldi and Bach, and the moderns, Charlie Parker, Frans Geysen and Chiel Meyering.

The moderns revealed that the time-honored recorder doesn't have to be passe. Parker accomplished this in his jazzy way, and the others through unconventional techniques of blowing unusual patterns, both sophisticated and often amusing.

The musical highlight of the program was a selection of Bach's *Art of the Fugue*. Admirably faithful in style and with perfect transparence in their rendition of the intricate contrapuntal texture, the recorders showed that they are as legitimate as other, more seriously regarded instruments in performing this respect-inspiring work.

Jerusalem Theater, December 17. ***Ury Eppstein***

BEYOND its religious connotations, Christmas is an occasion for enjoyable and rarely performed music appropriate to the season.

The selection offered by Elisabeth Roloff (organ), Gabriele Bukowski (oboe), Alan Tchaikov (clarinet) and Barbara Ann Schmutzler (bassoon) concentrated mainly on the popular tune "From Heaven High," in an amazing variety of different versions: by Pachelbel, Oscar Wermann and, of course, Johann Sebastian Bach. Likewise in the feast's spirit was a Shepherds' Music for clarinet and organ by Richard Fricke, surprisingly reminiscent of the shepherd's song in *Tannhäuser* by Wagner.

The festive atmosphere was brightened toward the end by a Mozart Divertimento, originally for three basset-horns, and by a delightful Trio Sonata by Telemann, performed by all the protagonists.

Lutheran Redeemer Church, December 17. ***Ury Eppstein***

THE Israel Sinfonietta offered three Bs – Bach, Brahms and Britten – for their fourth Classica series. Swiss tenor Christoph Homberger effectively projected the progression from guilt and turmoil, through renunciation, to confident faith in recitatives and arias from Bach's only cantata for tenor solo – No. 55.

He was joined by young Israeli french hornist Hezi Nir for Britten's Serenade, op. 31, a collection of six meditations on the night by England's finest lyric poets.

The imagery and language proved too subtle for any real identification by the interpreters, who diligently followed the musical markings.

Brahms's first orchestral Serenade, op. 11, was another matter. Music director Uri Mayer's obvious intimacy with the score and sympathy for the style were evident. He drew a warm and sonorous performance.

Beersheba Conservatory, December 17. ***Max Stern***

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Once when you were young, life was full of little joys and big disasters.

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THE JERUSALEM POST

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Commercial banks' liquidity requirements to be reduced

Change will allow higher returns on deposits

JOSE ROSENFELD

THE Bank of Israel will reduce *the commercial banks'* liquidity requirements at the end of the month, enabling savers to get higher returns on their deposits.

The central bank notified the banks yesterday of the impending changes, which will free up more money for the banks to lend and increase their demand for deposits.

The banks, in turn, will attract deposits by promising higher yields for them.

Savings deposits for a period of up to six days will have to meet a six percent liquidity requirement instead of 8%.

Liquidity requirements for deposits of seven days and up to a year will go down to 3%, instead of 6% for a period of up to three months and 4% for up to a year.

Deposits for a period of a year or longer will have no liquidity requirement.

These changes are expected to bring administrative restrictions to accepted Western levels and eliminate previous distortions, which created a gap between the interest borrowers paid on loans and that paid by the banks on deposits.

The new liquidity requirements will become effective on December 29, the central bank announced.

The move marks an additional step in the Bank of Israel's banking liberalization program.

In contrast to 1987, when the average commercial bank liquidity requirements stood at 63%, it stood at 21% at the end of October.

Non-linked deposit liquidity requirements fell to 6.5% from 31%, index-linked deposit liquidity dropped to 32% from 63%, and foreign currency-linked deposit liquidity tumbled to 24% from 84%.

As of January 1, mortgage and investment banks, as well as other financial institutions, will be subject to the same liquidity requirements that fall on regular commercial banks.

This will increase the potential for competition in the money and capital market.

The reason is that these banks which have previously relied almost exclusively on index-linked sources will be able to raise funds from non-linked or foreign currency-linked sources.

Ministry seeks to open cement shipping market

JOSE ROSENFELD

SUPERVISOR of Monopolies Yoram Turbowicz is planning to request the anti-trust court to issue an order opening the transportation of cement to competition, the Industry and Trade Ministry announced yesterday.

Turbowicz, who is investigating the transportation of cement from Nesher, the nation's sole cement producer, has found that a de facto monopoly exists in cement transportation.

Nesher's joint owners, Koor and Clal, also own Toval, a cement transport company which has exclusive control over the transportation of cement.

The company itself does not own any trucks but employs a closed group of about 20 subcontractors for the transportation of bags of cement and uses Ta'avura for moving cement in bulk.

When customers pay for cement orders, they pay the price of cement, the transportation costs and a fee to Toval.

While the price of cement is controlled, since Nesher is a monopoly, the transportation prices are not.

Following consultations with Nesher and other interested parties, Turbowicz will move to open Nesher's gates to new cement shippers under the following conditions.

The new arrangements will preserve safety levels at the plants and their security and will conform to their loading capacity.

A similar procedure will be undertaken later for the transportation of cement in bulk based on the experience obtained from opening the transportation of cement bags to competition.

The Industry and Trade Ministry estimates that cement consumption will total five million tons this year.

About two-thirds of that amount will be sold in bulk, while the remaining third will be sold in bags.

Nesher plants will produce 4.6 million tons in its three plants.

However, in order to meet local demand, Nesher will import 300,000 tons, mostly as bulk. Other importers will bring in 800,000 tons in bags.

Report: Healthcare most profitable industry in US

NEW YORK (Reuter) – Tight cost control boosted healthcare to become the most profitable US industry this year, despite the failure of health reform in Washington, an industry report said.

Individuals, corporations and government, anticipating healthcare reforms, pressured businesses to economize, pushing down the level of inflation of medical costs, *Forbes* magazine said in its Report on American Industry released yesterday.

The report ranks 1,340 large companies in 21 industries and industry subgroups based on their five-year return on equity – the measure of how much a company earns per share divided by the number of shareholders.

In addition, *Forbes* said, "consolidation driven by cost-cutting swept every segment of health care in 1994," which also helped boost average profits.

Financial services – helped by low interest rates in recent years – emerged near the top of the list, going to fourth from eighth place.

The entertainment business was another star performer, moving into the top 10 with help from high-profile Hollywood hits. Paramount's *Forest Gump* and Walt Disney Co's *Lion King* each took in about $300 million at the box office in 1994 and racked up huge profits for their studios.

Sellers of consumer non-durables – clothing and other personal products – also had a strong year, as the improving economy brought consumers back into stores. The group became the second strongest industry sector, in place of food, drink and tobacco.

Aerospace and defense, like the medical business, has watched profits grow because of cost cutting. While shrinking military budgets have cut sales, effective financial management has sparked a surge in earnings. The group climbed to seventh from 13th last year.

In contrast, computer sales soared, but the group's profit ranking fell.

Cut-throat competition got consumers into stores but didn't do much for shareholders of high-technology stocks. The group fell from 10th to 15th.

The metals business ended up in last place – with energy, transport, construction, and forest products also near the bottom of the list.

Tsur approves import of 2,000 tons of potatoes

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

AGRICULTURE Minister Ya'acov Tsur has approved the import of 2,000 tons of potatoes for industry from Turkey, following a 60 percent price increase in the last two weeks.

Potato prices have risen to NIS 3.4 per kilo on the wholesale market from NIS 2-NIS 2.2 at the beginning of December.

The ministry also reported that tomato prices remain high, despite imports by Agrexco and private companies.

A shipment of 700 tons of tomatoes imported by Agrexco from Spain and the Canary Islands arrived at Ashdod port yesterday. The shipment, which is



Ya'acov Tsur (IPPA)

equivalent to two days of consumption, represents the largest tomato consignment ever to arrive here.

Agrexco has imported a total of 2,500 tons of tomatoes, 1,000 tons of onions and 750 tons of carrots in the last three weeks.

Vegetable Board managing director Efraim Shalom said vegetable prices remain high, due to brokerage fees on the wholesale and retail market.

Shalom said wholesalers buy tomatoes imported by sea for NIS 5 per kilo and sell them to retailers for NIS 7.50 per kilo, a 50 percent profit.

Shalom said cucumber prices have dropped to NIS 3 per kilo from an all-time high of NIS 8 per kilo two weeks ago.

He emphasized that the price fell even though there were no imports.

12 firms apply for tender from Environment Ministry

LIAT COLLINS

TWELVE companies have applied for the tender to operate an administrative body which would help the Environment Ministry finance projects combatting environmental problems in existing factories.

The aid will be given to combat problems of air pollution, wastewater, solid waste and hazardous materials and will help cover costs of monitoring and neutralizing equipment, or moving over to environmentally friendly production processes and technology.

Environment Ministry Director General Israel Peleg, who heads the ministry's tenders' committee, said the government grant would amount to 35% of the factories' investment.

The maximum grant would be NIS 1.1 million. The approved budget is some NIS 500m. over four years. The administration would have a budget of NIS 112m. for 1995.

Peleg said the administration would check factories' grant requests and refer them for approval to the interministerial steering committee he heads.

According to ministry estimates, some NIS 1.6 billion will be invested by industry in environment-related treatment in the next four years.

Kessar: 51% of El Al will be sold by May

HAIM SHAPIRO

FIFTY-ONE percent of El Al's shares will be sold by May, Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar said yesterday.

Once the company comes out of receivership in February, the government will sell a majority of its shares.

Kessar, who appeared at the Knesset Finance Committee, said that as soon as the national carrier ended its period of bankruptcy, a board of governors would be appointed.

In a different matter, Kessar told the committee members that the ministry intends to allocate another 1,500 taxi permits.

He said taxi drivers with at least eight years of experience who did not own their own vehicles would be able to acquire a permit for $40,000.

Those with less than eight years of experience would be offered permits for $55,000.

Kessar explained that the official price of a taxi permit, commonly called a "green number" because taxi license plates were once green, is $20,000.

In practice, however, on the black market the permits are traded for about $85,000, he said.

Somekh Chaikin joins Price Waterhouse worldwide organization

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

SOMEKH Chaikin, one of the country's largest professional services and public accounting firms, has signed an agreement to join the Price Waterhouse (PW) worldwide organization, the companies announced yesterday.

Somekh, which has maintained a close working relationship for more than 25 years with PW, will join the organization as of January 1.

"The addition of Somekh Chaikin to our worldwide organization will enhance the ability of Price Waterhouse firms to serve multinational clients whose businesses are expanding in Israel," said PW World chairman Shaun O'Malley.

"It also will give Somekh Chaikin's clients increased access to the broad range of services offered by Price Waterhouse firms around the world."

The companies said they have a common computer network and have been sharing information on a broad range of business topics and procedures for many years.

Mordecai Soloff, PW's Israel liaison and a partner in its New York office, said the US firm has *experienced increased interest in* Israel from clients in the past few years.

"The easing of tensions in the Middle East has improved conditions for doing business in Israel," Soloff said.

"Somekh Chaikin's professional expertise and its wide experience in the local business environment will ensure that the Price Waterhouse firms provide a full range of the highest quality, solution-oriented services in this rapidly emerging economy," Soloff said.

Founded in 1949, Somekh has offices in Tel Aviv, Haifa and Jerusalem. Its total personnel is more than 300, including 17 partners.

The PW organization includes 447 offices in 118 countries. The network of firms offers accounting, auditing, tax and consulting services to corporations and government agencies.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Top Image Systems signs agreement with Japanese firm: Top Image Systems of Ramat Gan has signed a marketing and distribution agreement with Japanese corporation Hasso, a subsidiary of Toyo Ink. Hasso offers services in system integration, office automation and telecommunications.

The first phase of the agreement provides for Hasso's acquisition of Top Image's Automatic Forms Processing System for credit card vouchers. Hasso has said sales are expected to total $10 million for the first two years.

Plastic industry expected to grow 17% this year: The plastic industry is expected to grow 17 percent this year to $590 million, despite a drop in profits from exports, the Manufactures Association announced yesterday.

Uri Peled, chairman of the Manufactures Association plastic division, said the growth in the sector's earnings is mainly a result of old orders. He said plastic companies fear that profits from exports will continue to fall next year, as a result of the government's and Bank of Israel's foreign currency policy.

Bergad made local representative of Korean firm Samsung: Bergad, part of the Eisenberg group has been made exclusive local representative for Korean concern Samsung. Bergad has imported Samsung goods for many years, selling selected products under private labels Jet Point and Empire. Following Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's visit to Korea, the agency has now opened officially and will widen its range of electronic audio/video and white goods. Several other companies competed for the Samsung license – including Crystal, Sensor and Delta.

Dani Keret, head of Samsung (Israel), said he intended to conquer eight percent of the color TV market and 10% of the microwave market within the first year of operation. Service will initially be provided by Sansui importers Dynamic 80.

TASE's total market value falls 20.9% this year: The total market value for the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange this year is an estimated NIS 194.9 million, a 20.9 percent drop from NIS 246.3m. last year. However, the figure is still higher than 1992's market value of NIS 185.3m.

Safety Guard signs deal with Austrian company: Safety Guard has signed a marketing agreement with Austrian machinery and equipment marketer Meturgen. Safety Guard manufactures electro-optical welding masks according to a unique technology. A NIS 200,000 order has already been filled for Meturgen, meant mainly for the Austrian and Hungarian markets.

JOEL, HSP buys two additional buildings in San Diego: JOEL and Pass-Port subsidiary Health Science Properties has purchased two additional buildings in San Diego. HSP invests in properties for use by the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries.

Up to now, HSP has invested a total $56 million in four properties and expects an annual return of 13 percent on investment and 14% on capital.

Heineken grants Tempo Beer Industries 10-year contract: Tempo Beer Industries has been granted a 10-year contract by Heineken for manufacturer of Amstel beer here. Heineken will provide technical know-how to Tempo, which will also continue to act as local distributor for Heineken beer.

Tadiran Communications introduces infra-red broadcast system: People and equipment which tend to wander around the office building can now be easily located by Tadisearch, Tadiran Communications infra-red broadcast system.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (20.12.94)

Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar ($250,000)	5.500	6.000	6.750
Pound sterling (£100,000)	4.750	5.375	6.125
German mark (DM 200,000)	4.500	4.500	4.875
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	3.125	3.375	3.750
Yen (10 million yen)	0.750	0.875	1.000

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (19.12.94)

	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS Buy	Sell	BANKNOTES Buy	Sell	Rep. Rates**
Currency basket	3.3230	3.3700	—	—	3.3489
U.S. dollar	2.9970	3.0393	2.94	3.06	3.0200
German mark	1.9004	1.9273	1.86	1.95	1.9175
Pound sterling	4.6777	4.7437	4.58	4.80	4.7086
French franc	0.5520	0.5598	0.53	0.57	0.5562
Japanese yen (100)	2.9880	3.0302	2.93	3.07	3.0095
Dutch florin	1.8993	1.7233	1.57	1.75	1.7129
Swiss franc	2.2486	2.2783	2.20	2.31	2.2626
Swedish krone	0.3970	0.4026	0.39	0.41	0.3998
Norwegian krone	0.4362	0.4424	0.43	0.45	0.4394
Danish krone	0.4846	0.4915	0.48	0.50	0.4889
Finnish mark	0.6142	0.6229	0.60	0.63	0.6197
Canadian dollar	2.1527	2.1831	2.11	2.21	2.1699
Australian dollar	2.3272	2.3600	2.28	2.40	2.3416
S. African rand	0.8425	0.8544	0.74	0.86	0.8483
Belgian franc (10)	0.9264	0.9395	0.91	0.95	0.9327
Austrian schilling (10)	2.7026	2.7407	2.65	2.78	2.7242
Italian lira (1000)	1.8186	1.8442	1.78	1.88	1.8349
Jordanian dinar	—	—	4.17	4.43	4.2431
Egyptian pound	—	—	0.85	0.91	0.8813
ECU	3.6276	3.6788	—	—	3.6557
Irish punt	4.6034	4.6684	4.50	4.78	4.6395
Spanish peseta (100)	2.2653	2.2973	2.20	2.35	2.2928

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.

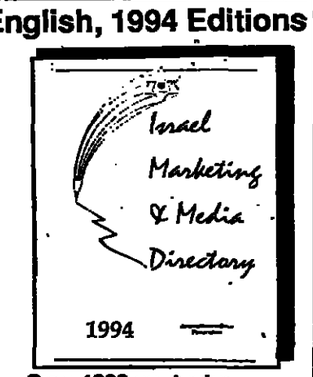
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Ronen Nahum

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20 1994

...k to open
...ng market

...NESS BRIEFS

Key Representative Rates

		Change
US dollar	NIS 3.0200	+ 0.20%
Sterling	NIS 4.7086	-.-%
Mark	NIS 1.9175	- 0.02%

INT'L STOCK MARKETS

New York market indexes

	Last	Change
DJ Industrials	3790.03	-17.16
DJ Transport	1411.25	-4.86
DJ Utils	181.16	-1.05
DJ Comp	1254.1	-5.5
NYSE Indust	315.22	-0.86
NYSE Transport	218.79	-0.27
NYSE Comp	246.82	-0.62
S&P 100	427.99	-2.85
S&P Spot Index	457.69	-1.11
AMEX Comp	425.34	-0.86

NYSE stocks

	Unchanged	Advances	Declines
Share movements	-847	941	1360
Volume up (in 1000's)			95165
Volume down (in 1000's)			126994

Other stock market indexes

	Last	Change
FTSE 100	3034.5	+20.9
Tokyo Nikkei average	19270.8	+107.4
Singapore all-shares index	526.45	+1.73
Hong Kong Hang Seng index	8178.34	+11.95
Israel index	103	+1.51

Israeli stocks in NY

NYSE / AMEX	Last	Change
Am Is Pap	45	+1.75
Ampal A	8.5	-0.125
Ary	1.5	-0.0625
BioTechnology	2.3125	+0
Carmel Cont	7.75	-0.25
Frutarom (electrochem)	9	-0.25
Elscint	1.75	+0
Etz Lavud	7.625	-0.125
Etz Lavud A	6.375	0
Laser T.	5.125	+0.125
PEC	26.25	-0.25
Tadiran	19	-0.25
NASDAQ / over-the-counter		
Aladdin	6.125	+0.375
4TH. Dimension	4.0625	+0.3125
Ampal B.5	18.5	0
BVR	4.875	+0.25
Coravense	11.125	+0
Data (Defense)	5	-0.3125
BCI	12.75	-0.375
Edunetics	1.375	-0.25
Edu-Soft	7.25	-0.25
Electric Foot	6.25	-0.25
EFFI	23.5	-0.625
Elbit	20.375	+0.625
Elron	8.78125	+0.15625
Eshed Robotec	0.5	-0.125
Fibronix	0.65	+0.0125
M. Systems	3.875	+0
Gilat	13.75	+0.125
ISG	1.5625	-0.0625
Geotek	8.1875	-0.4375
Health Tech	1.9675	-0.0625
Ision	0.375	+0
IIS	2.4375	-0.0625
Indigo	15.25	+0.25
Interpharm	15	0
Isramco	1.0625	+0.03125
First Isr Fund	11	-0.25
Intek	0.53125	+0
Lannet	20.25	+2.375
Lanoptics	5.625	+0
Magal	3.625	-0.125
Medis-Al	2	+0.125
Mercury	13.25	+0.5625
Magic	8.75	+0.125
Orbotech	7.5375	+0.0625
Oshap Tech	2.25	-0.125
Rada	3.4375	-0.0625
Robomatics	0.625	0
Sapiens	1.9375	-0.0625
Scitex	17.125	+1.125
Silicom	7	+0
T.A.T. Technol	2.5	-0.1875
Taro Vit.	7	+0
Teledata	5.25	+0
Telegraph	3	+0.125
Teva	23.5	+0.125
TVG	1	+0

(All listings are closing quotes)

Commestock Trading Ltd. (Date 19-DEC-94)

INT'L MONEY MARKETS

Dollar crossrates (US)

		Last	Change
Pound:	spot	1.5606	+0.0001
	Dec.future (CME)	1.56	-0.0006
D-mark:	spot	1.5735	-0.0006
	Dec.future (CME)	0.6351	-0.0012
S-franc:	spot	1.3316	-0.0023
	Dec.future (CME)	0.7493	-0.0032
Yen:	spot	100.14	-0.14
	Dec.future (CME)	0.009984	+2e-006
CanDlr:	spot	1.3945	+0.0032
	Dec.future (CME)	0.7171	-0.0011
AusDlr:	spot	0.7769	+0.001
	Dec.future (CME)	0.7765	+0.0013
F-franc:	spot	5.4213	-0.0063
It Lira:	spot	1646.5	+7.5
Nig	spot	1.7817	+0.0008
AusShlg:	spot	11.09	+0.0325
Rand:	spot	3.5555	-0.0146
ECU:	spot	1.2114	+0.0055
Bonds	future	100.313	+0.28125
S and P	future	458.02	0

Libor rates

		Last	Change
Dollar	3 months	6 3/75	+0.0625
Dollar	6 months	6.875	0
Dollar	12 months	7.5625	0
Sterling	3 months	6.375	0
Sterling	6 months	7	+0.0625
Sterling	12 months	7.75	0
S-franc	3 months	4.25	0
S-franc	6 months	4 5	0
S-franc	12 months	4.8125	+0
D-mark	3 months	5.5	0
D-mark	6 months	5.5625	0
D-mark	12 months	5.875	0
Yen	3 months	2.375	+0
Yen	6 months	2.5	+0
Yen	12 months	2.6875	0

(Spot market listings are from approximately 23:30 Israel time. All others are closing quotes.)

Commestock Trading Ltd. (Date 19-DEC-94)

Foreign financial data courtesy of
CommStock Trading Ltd.

Futures, Options, Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds
34 Ben Yehuda St., Jerusalem,
Tel. 02-244963, 03-5758826
Fax. 02-244876

INT'L COMMODITIES AND METALS

US commodities

	Last	Change
Cocoa (Mar) (CEC)	1297	-5
Coffee (Mar) (CEC)	158.86	+0.3
Sugar no.11 (Mar) (CEC)	14.85	-0.28
Wheat (Mar) (CBOT)	388.75	+3.5
Soybeans(Jan)(CBOT)	569.5	+8.75
Orange juice (Jan)(CEC)	119.5	+4.85
Crude oil light (Mar)(CEC)	17.08	+0.08

London commodities

	Last	Change
Cocoa (Mar) (LCE)	976	+5
Cotton (Jan) (LCE)	2674	+15
Brent crude oil (Mar)(IPE)	1588	-1

Spot market metals (US)

		Last	Change
Gold:	spot	379.85	+1.6
Silver:	spot	4.79	+0

New York metal futures

	Last	Change
Gold (Feb)	381.7	+0.8
Silver (Mar)	4.817	-0.013
Platinum (Jan.)	415.8	+3.3
Palladium (Mar.)	154.8	+0.05
High-grade copper (Mar)	1.34	-0.0185

London metal fixes

	Last	Change
Gold AM fix	379	-0.7
Gold PM fix	379.2	-1.15
Silver fix	477	-5.2
Platinum PM fix	419.4	+2.4

Month in parentheses signals contract exp. date

(Spot market listings are from approximately 23:30 Israel time. All others are closing quotes.)

Commestock Trading Ltd. (Date 19-DEC-94)

MONEY MARKETS

TEL AVIV STOCKS

هكذا من الأصل

Multi-sided trading

Commercial Banks

Name	Price	%chg
FrstIntW2	1866	1.7
General	7940	1.0
IndDevDD		
IndDevPD		
MarkC	182.50	0.8
OH-I	134940	
Trade	713	
TradeC	177.00	0.3

Mortgage Banks & Finance

Name	Price	%chg
Adanim	328942	
Carmel	846	0.8
CarmCt3	280	
DevMB	17560	0.5
FirstMB	24384	
IndepMB	61998	1.5
J IamC	128.00	0.4
JlemBnk	270	
LeumiMBR	78427	1.0
MishkanC	187.00	
Mtsnv	7048	0.7
TefenotR	166.07	

Financial Institutions

Name	Price	%chg
Shiton	7760	4.0

Insurance

Name	Price	%chg
IsnadNvt	1058	5.5
Aramt	1719	
Ayalon	684	
AyalonC	983	
Elite	364	
EliteC1	226	
Hadar1	1299	
Hadar5	1121	
HamehsrC	202	
Hamshar1	1483	
Hamshar5	1278	1.8
Menoran1	1042	
Menorah5	915	0.2
Phoenix1	2670	1.9
Phoenix5	2492	0.6
Sahar	480	0.4
Zion5	10898	-0.2

Trade & Services

Name	Price	%chg
hashmira	321	
Ituran	955	3.6
Barzel	1850	-1.0
BezakW2	140.00	0.4
BndWrhC1	133.50	0.4
BndWrhC2	126.00	1.2
BondWrh1 L	2991	0.7
Clbg0.1	60900	
Clal Comp	9236	1.0
ClalCmpC	146.50	1.4
CorBeech	1268	
CoOp	1283	0.5
Crystal	1894	1.0
DsnHotl1	2139	
DCL	594	
DCLW	81.00	4.5
Elad	124.00	0.8
Fekimon	160.50	
GenHadar	283	0.4
GenHadC	280	
GlisgG2	183.50	-0.3
GramaC1	107.00	0.5
GranitW2	108.00	0.9
HGIC1	130.00	
HGIW1	105.00	
HGIn	320	
Ingamo1	2586	0.2
Ingamo5	2978	
Liraz	1108	
Mofi	882	4.0
Medtech	418	
MedtechW	497	
M.L.I.C1	185.50	
Rapac	1563	0.3
Reshef	92.00	0.5
ReshefC1	103.00	
Telam	2320	0.3
TeamC1	163.00	0.3
Telsye	1178	
Topline	338	1.2
YasdC1	119.00	1.3
Yasna	1299	1.0
Yedet	913	3.3
Yona	530	

Industrials

Name	Price	%chg
ashotashk	132.00	5.2
electracp	1868	0.3
Ituco	367	
ackog	480	1.3
elligar	167.00	
yahodasr	388	2.9
AdlersC	110.50	1.4
Adocom	36.50	
AdocomC2	13.50	
Alliance	1232	0.7
Alony	285	1.1
Alumit11L	12579	-3.0
Angel	11845	2.0
Argaman	500	
AryC1	86.50	-
Ashpiy	1532	0.5
Ashpiy1	168.00	
AshpiyW2	448	
AshtromW1		
Ashtrom	397	0.6
Atzmon	280	
AtzmonW1	114.00	1.8
Azimuth	467	0.5
Belmon	516	0.8
BoulosCt1	194.50	
Cables Cp	205	
CablesC3	129.00	
CablesW3	300	2.4
Citrusline	778	0.5
Clargal	1716	
Casino	1306	0.8
Cham	557	
ClalBizC	298	0.4
ClalBz0.1	1896	
Clal Cp	175.50	0.3
CyclonsW	200	-3.8
Cyclone1	7981	
Cyclone5	5680	
CyclonCt1	158.00	0.6
CyclonCt2	103.50	-0.5
DaloneI	184.00	
DshronW2	888	
Dshron1	2841	0.5
Decision	254	1.1
Degem1	1310	5.0
Delta T	1917	
Delta3	1921	2.7
DuteM3	9383	1.0
DubekR	9800	4.2
EagleC		
EagleCt2	45.00	
EagleW3	38.50	
Eagle1	82.00	
Edger	258	1.2
EdgerCt2	133.00	
EldanTec	59.00	
ElbitW1	8005	8.0
Elcoinv	1229	
Elctrice	748	
Elct 0.5	7855	
ElectrG4	271	
ElitoC	274	
EshdRstc	322	
Evrot	185.00	-0.9
Fenton5	1933	0.3
FerilL.1	1973	
FrschtW1	7972	
FrschtW5	6925	0.5
Fte 3	311	1.3
FrutarC1	205	0.5
FrutarC2	190.00	
GiborC1	88.00	
GiborSab	385	3.1
GiborW2	393	0.7
Globin	946	1.0
Hamash	872	0.5
HatshofI	319	0.3
HatshofI5	137.50	
Hod	259	0.8
Hotl	156.50	
IsrCan1	3061	0.5
Jet-ora	782	0.3
Kadimany1	211	1.0
Kardan	5498	
KadanC2	175.50	1.2
Kater	582	5.0
KitanC1	142.50	0.4
Klil	2148	
Klils	2012	
Lipid	3481	
Lodzia1	1297	2.5
Lodzia4	1121	3.0
LuhotGal	151.50	
MedPell	221	
Megdim	422	
Maxima1	1173	
Maxima5	1026	0.5
Mel Eden	1107	0.7
Modgal	986	
Mozaika1	307	0.7
Mozaika5	294	
NegCeram	299	0.7
Nehusht1	991	
Nehusht5	774	
Neviot	1309	0.8
Nicin1	1385	3.0
NMC	424	
Olis	817	1.5
Ophir	256	1.2
Orbit1	389	
Osite	388	
PadawW2	4856	-0.5
Pargod	1458	
PazChen	425	1.2
Plas	708	3.8
PolgatA	368	1.4
PolgatC1	183.00	
Polygon	583	
PolygonC	162.00	
PGS	628	
Rabinex	365	2.5
RabinoW	73.00	2.8
Sanbol1	384	1.1
Sano1	1197	
Sano5	1148	0.3
Selen	330	
Shenen	8620	0.2
Spcinx	359	
Stael	218	3.3
Suntrost	8603	0.5
Taal	34427	
Tadiran	807	
Tambour	685	0.3
Tedea	1041	0.8
Tiv	730	
Tobas1	406	0.7
Topper	189.50	-8.0
TATC1	185.00	
TATY	480	
Unibar1	1725	3.0
Unibar5	515	4.5
Vitalgn1	986	
Vulcan	243	
VulcanC	184.50	0.9
Wardinon	18707	0.5
WardinW3	8220	4.0
YitongCt	330	-3.2
Zahav4	228	1.3
Zkun	1697	2.2
Zkun5	1899	
Zkit1	4462	
Zkit5	3997	
ZionCato1	934	1.2
Zohar/nd	440	2.1

Property, Building & Agriculture

Name	Price	%chg
Jacobsv	137.50	-3.6
Ipsad	304	1.0
Ituzbal	379	
weltson	77130	
y.siang	168.50	
Alrov	1505	0.5
AlrovC		
AlrovW1L	108.00	
Amizam	184.50	
Amzim C1	171.50	
Ariadam1	1185	1.3
Arlos	2153	-1.0
AsetsCA	155.00	
AzorsW2	743	
Azorsb	1198	0.3
AzorsC1	240	-1.6
AzorpC1	255	0.8
AzorProp	594	2.1
Bayzano1	986	
BayaldaS	38344	0.8
BayaldC1	28893	1.2
BenYakir	2036	
BenYakW1	717	
BenYhorC	85.50	-0.6
BldgRes	3998	
Combstr	1515	
DanKnar	1595	0.5
DanKnarC	163.50	0.3
Danad1	943	0.4
Dunbar	4401	1.2
DunbarCw	264	-0.4
Engel	380	0.3
GoldHous	388	
GldHousC	196.00	
Ingrop	2995	0.2
Isralom	1954	0.3
IsralomC	210	0.5
IsratC1	192.00	0.5
Israso0.5	4946	0.7
Issec1	5182	
ICPS	20930	
Jaysour1	211	2.4
Jordan	376	
LiszniC1	192.50	
LiszniA5	284	
Litanz5	174.50	0.3
Lumir1	3618	
MalibuC2	117.50	0.4
Malibu1	868	4.7
MarLiszC	250	
MarLiszC2	86.50	1.8
MarLiszW3	157.50	5.6
Mirkav	7884	0.2
Mishreel	337	
MTM	2937	
NeotAstv	1585	
PriOr	6586	
RadSea	847	2.7
Rogovn1L	1108	8.0
Rogovn5	992	0.2
Rotem	474	
Sezon	312	1.6
Shaked	415	
Tashtur	601	

Investment Companies

Name	Price	%chg
Ityel	1107	1.3
Adam1	837	-0.9
Adam2	757	0.3
Adam5	453	0.9
Ampa	119547	
Arad	5291	1.0
Azr stC2	180.00	0.3
ClalW3	1280	1.5
Dalu50	7037	0.3
DanbarC	196.50	-4.1
Danbar1	2217	-0.3
Ellern	3132	1.3
Emet1	183.50	-0.5
ExportC4	220	-1.8
Hilan	397	
HilanW4	238	1.7
Hiron5	8515	1.0
Ical	1179	
IDLC6	188.50	
IscaC1	174.50	
JoelC1A	175.00	
Karden1	391	-0.3
KardanG2		
Keal	448	0.2
Magor1	1974	0.5
Magor5	1889	
Molot	595	8.0
OcifC1	130.00	0.4
OcifW1	3828	1.2
Ofer	11390	
Pamot0 1	1047	3.3
Rom1	481	
Rim4	295	0.7
SeharDev	2578	0.2
Securis	2138	
SecuritC	126.00	

Investment Companies

Name	Price	%chg
darbam1	2170	
Ilcar	709	3.2
marathon	67.50	0.7
Atlan	1464	
Binyan	72348	2.3
Hamen	2260	
Mirage	129.50	
Optima	200	
Regent1	338	
Yissum	94.00	2.7

Oil Exploration

Name	Price	%chg
DIKDErt	2098	
Naphtna	36.80	3.2
SecuritW	438	
SAPANHASP	876	2.0
TleysC	248	
TzurCt	184.00	
TzurSHmr	93.00	1.1
Unico	5536	

Oil Exploration

Name	Price	%chg
MGN1	6062	

PARALLEL LIST Trade & Services

Name	Price	%chg
alstanol	668	
atrds	668	
Plask	309	1.3
Bscna.	187.00	
Isobarrs	250	
ralvishalm	1008	
elevaya	2241	
radasans	348	
tkn	663	
AllanW1	854	1.8
Comsec	571	
Delnt1	3.30	
Dsnet	1170	
Data	1138	
Elscon	425	
Greenbg	610	0.5
ILDCHOT	497	
Klnt	277	-0.4
Kopel	330	
KopelC1	163.50	
MOPK	413	
Nirun1	266	5.1
Regency Ho	154.00	-1.0
TrendLin	1281	

Property, Building

Name	Price	%chg
a dori	128.50	
alonthesc	101.50	-1.5
grandcr	152.00	0.3
pandor	713	
Adler	243	
Bar—Tonl	1788	
Ceasrea1	4038	0.5
Danly	636	
Gazit	485	
GazitW1	355	2.5
GazitCt	280	0.3
Lazmich	143.50	
Lemstn1	758	1.5
Mellsron	883	
Ofz	3008	
Rassco	2145	1.0
Scandia	184.50	
ScandiaC	111.50	
UnicomG1	134.50	0.4
Unicom.	145.50	
Unicom5	81.00	
UnicorW3	55.00	0.9

Industrials

Name	Price	%chg
acoodsgn	80.50	
kadoomagn	334	
Ikoman	1583	-4.0
masirlvhld	817	
nisco	1809	
phyton	252	0.4
relchart	1528	
Sachem	521	
tdmauer	558	1.5
vierstrix	132.00	
zinmetal	1597	
Adumim1	218	
Bencht1	1817	7.0
Benchs5	650	-3.0
Brosh1	302	
Dexter	1982	-2.2
Elram	182.50	2.5
Ussl	178.00	0.8
King1	680	1.2
Lahish1	2853	0.2
ManC1	138.00	
Mani	342	-5.1
MLT	1183	
Neca	27148	
NecaG1	186.50	1.0
Ohollsh	754	0.3
Orazit	197.50	0.3
OrazIC	90.50	0.8
OrdaPrm	944	
Polish1	447	8.0
Shladot	115.50	
Taste	677	1.0

Investment Companies

Name	Price	%chg
darbam1	2170	
Ilcar	709	3.2
marathon	67.50	0.7
Atlan	1464	
Binyan	72348	2.3
Hamen	2260	
Mirage	129.50	
Optima	200	
Regent1	338	
Yissum	94.00	2.7

Industrials

Name	Price	%chg
acoodsgn	80.50	
kadoomagn	334	
Ikoman	1583	-4.0
masirlvhld	817	
nisco	1809	
phyton	252	0.4
relchart	1528	
Sachem	521	
tdmauer	558	1.5
vierstrix	132.00	
zinmetal	1597	
Adumim1	218	
Bencht1	1817	7.0
Benchs5	650	-3.0
Brosh1	302	
Dexter	1982	-2.2
Elram	182.50	2.5
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OrazIC	90.50	0.8
OrdaPrm	944	
Polish1	447	8.0
Shladot	115.50	
Taste	677	1.0

Two-sided trading

Name	AFTERNOON Price	% Change	Volume Shares	MORNING Price	% Change	Volume Shares
bulltipr	482	0.2	3500	492	2.3	4777
nacional	1121	-2.2	28900	1147		9907
Alplac	22.1	10.0	1280000	22.1	10.0	845708
Ackerlin	305	-0.2	31500	306		40171
Alris O.	328332	-0.5	252	333282	1.0	47
Alrier	312055	-0.7	430	314413		101
Agan	4277	1.5	660	4277	1.5	2826
Agis	2002	0.5	3000	1892		14558
Aryt	452			452		8212
Avnet	7.6	9.0	1050000	7.2	2.9	192114
Azorim	3678	-1.7	16800	3781	1.0	11575
ALPM	13801	3.2	10800	14102	5.5	1953
Bezek	550	0.5	90000	556	2.0	37584
Boufo	204		24000	209	2.5	25593
Cables	1484	0.2	13000	1495	1.0	2587
Ciel Ele	24071	2.7	765	23427		992
Ciel Tra	819	-2.0	31500	836		7852
Ciel 10	7229	-0.2	80300	7410	2.2	3899
Ciellns	1118	-1.5	180700	1135		33449
Clalnr 5	1827	-2.0	16800	1883	1.0	3537
Clinds	1716	-0.7	112000	1751	1.3	15792
CohenDev.	645	4.2	55000	650	5.0	189
Danbar 5	1873	1.7	2400	1882	2.2	7781
Dead Sea	788	-0.2	350000	778	1.0	59886
Delek	8263	-0.2	10800	8450	2.0	5050
Discinv	18903		13020	19281	2.0	1848
Elbit	20417	0.2	18830	21079	3.5	4778
Elco	8612		10400	9268	4.0	1618
Elite 5	1453	-1.7	91000	1479		30246
Elron	8910	-1.2	12000	9339	3.5	3402
Evergr n	2127	-0.5	3000	2138		4691
Export	1426	0.5	26400	1419		14254
Fibi	41944	-2.5	4515	43772	1.8	885
Formula	969	1.5	3200	955		3287
Frstint1	34414	-0.5	2500	35279	2.0	484
Frstint5	33187	0.5	1575	33682	2.0	185
Frutarom	1096	3.0	1400	1096	3.0	15171
Gahelet	5519	0.7	3900	5519	0.7	1195
Granit	492	1.0		492	1.0	9285
Hapoalm	425	-2.2	554200	442	1.8	155701
Hapoim	7448	-1.7	23100	7579		10358
IndBldg	385	-2.0	300000	398	1.3	94444
IndDevBK	28267	1.0	700	29057	0.3	230
Isramco	6.9	-5.0	16100000	7.6	4.1	4707468
IsrCorp1	20953	-2.0	2700	21916	2.5	508
IsrCorp5	21157	2.2		21157	2.5	103
IsChem	275	-0.5	5093000	277	0.4	545083
IDB	962		346500	981	2.0	99933
IDBDev	4960	-0.5	45000	4985		21987
ILDC	1014	1.0	172800	1062	5.8	27810
JEC	1018	-2.0	54000	1056	1.5	5380
JOEL	124.0	-3.0	192000	130.5	2.0	212562
Kardan5	352	0.5	100000	350		65837
Kitan	1096		64800	1109	1.0	10348
Koor	22633	-1.5	22560	23667	3.0	5209
Laumi	327	-3.0	580000	344	2.1	94441
Lifshiz1	292	-0.5	30000	293		22976
Makhteh	1484	-1.0	81000	1521	1.5	7216
Malibu5	818	-2.2	38000	837		32802
Mamar1	808	-1.2	4800	818		6030
Maritt1	2285	-2.0	33750	2367	1.5	3949
Mashov	296	-0.2	69000	303	1.3	116293
Mehadrin	13530	5.0	3700	13595	5.5	109
MeirEzra	2444	1.2	5400	2414		14444
Mishkan	28720	0.5	315	28577		1378
Mivtah	1146	-0.2	16800	1172	2.0	1630
Multitock	1001	-1.2	7000	1006	-0.8	31788
MGN5	5528	1.0	1800	5583	2.0	300
MLL1	396	2.5	20000	394	2.1	975
NatnlOS	8.6	0.2	1860000	8.6		390699
Ocif	8240	1.2	1080	8179	0.5	596
Ormat	712	3.2	10000	711	3.0	24879
Osem	1857	0.7	44250	1898	3.0	16037
OsemW1				1183		
PezolIEx	96.5	1.0	109000	97.0	1.5	91832
Pecker	9578	0.7	1440	9505		1851
Periclas	2114	-1.0	11220	2199	3.0	4813
Petrchem	1389	3.0	92400	1470	9.0	36884
Pityon	10395	-0.5	2850	10767	3.3	1008
Polgat5	401	-0.2	84500	402		34890
Poseidon	85.0	3.2	144000	85.0	3.0	41481
Rogosin	2298	0.2	4900	2292		9615
SelaPump	156.5	-3.2	570000	167.0	3.1	92125
Superal8	5149	-0.7	59520	5286	1.5	6154
Telahot8	173948	-0.7	56	176282		149
Tempo1	1333	-2.0	10200	1360		3798
Teva	70173	-0.7	3700	71057	0.5	414
TevaC	423			423		
Tibuveal	392	0.5	18000	390		16485
TAT5	318		111300	328	3.1	20311
Urdan 0.	382	1.5	96000	376		28863
Yaad	662	1.0	8400	662	1.1	15600
Ytong	777	-0.2	11200	779		44468

THE PEOPLE YOU CAN TALK TO.

SOURCE: ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Name	Price	chg

NEW YORK

Name	Price	chg
AMP Inc	72	-0.75
AMR Corp	51.375	+0.75
ASA	44	-0.25
Abbott Labs	32.5	+0.125
Acme Cleveland	10.75	+0.25
Advanced Micro	22.75	-0.375
Aetna Life	45.75	+0.125
Affiliated Publ	8.375	+0
Aflac	39.375	-0.125
Ahmanson (HF)	16.625	+0.25
Air Prods	45.875	-0.25
Alberto-Culv B	26.5	+0.25
Albertson's	29.25	-0.125
Alcan Aluminium	25.375	+0
Alco Standard	51.375	+0.75

Pats knock Bills out of playoff picture

Steelers, Chargers clinch divisions

NEW YORK (AP) – With so many teams trying to get into the playoffs, one thing became clear Sunday: The Buffalo Bills aren't going to be one of them.

Pittsburgh shut down Cleveland 17-7 to win the AFC Central and gain home-field advantage throughout the playoffs, and San Diego beat the New York Jets 21-6 to finally win the AFC West.

But the big news is the AFC will have a new team in Miami on January 29 to try to end a 10-game losing streak against the NFC in the championship game.

"This is like Dracula," Patriots coach Bill Parcells said of the Bills, losers of the past four Super Bowls. "You've got to put a stake in their heart, and then you still wonder if it's in there."

After Kansas City's win over Houston later Sunday, the Bills' fate was sealed.

Elsewhere on the playoff front, Miami (9-6), a 10-6 loser to Indianapolis, is tied with New England (9-6) atop the AFC East. Miami, already in the playoffs, wins the division if both teams finish with the same record.

The Patriots would have made the playoffs had Seattle beaten the Los Angeles Raiders on Sunday night. But the Seahawks lost 17-16 when John Kasay missed a 43-yard field goal with nine seconds left. Now the Patriots will need a victory at Chicago on Saturday.

In the AFC Central, the Steelers (12-3) are the winners, with the Browns (10-5) in as a wildcard.

In the West, the Chargers (10-5) are the champs, with Kansas City (8-7) and the Los Angeles Raiders 9-6 still in the wild-card running.

In the NFC, Dallas (11-3) already won the East, with the New York Giants, a 16-13 winner over Philadelphia, and Arizona, a 28-7 winner over Cincinnati, still in the chase for a wildcard spot.

The Central is the most confusing, with Chicago joining Detroit and Minnesota atop the division at 9-6, and Green Bay (8-7) also alive. If all four teams win next weekend, then all four get in the playoffs – Minnesota as the division winner and the other three as wild cards.

In the West, the 49ers already clinched the division and home-field advantage throughout the playoffs.

Patriots 41, Bills 17

New England scored 38 straight points to bury Buffalo before 56,784 fans, the smallest crowd in Buffalo since September 1987.

The Patriots have won six straight and hope to make the playoffs for the first time since 1986.

The Bills led 17-3 with 5:53 gone in the second quarter before Bledsoe (22 of 31 for 276 yards) got the Pats rolling. He hit Ben Coates with a 4-yard TD pass and Vincent Brisby with a 7-yard score to tie it 17-17 at halftime. On the second play of the third quarter, Rickey Reynolds returned a fumble 25 yards for a TD to make it 24-17. Reynolds recovered another fumble on the Bills' next possession and then Bledsoe hit Brisby for a 6-yard TD to up the lead to 31-17.

Steelers 17, Browns 7

Pittsburgh (12-3) took advantage of Cleveland mistakes to win its seventh straight game.

Neil O'Donnell threw a 40-yard TD pass to Yancey Thigpen and Barry Foster (32 carries, 106 yards) had a 1-yard score as the Steelers made an early 14-0 lead stand up as the Browns fell to 10-5.

Vinny Testaverde, who had a 14-yard TD pass to Mark Carrier, was 21-of-42 for 250 yards and two interceptions.

Raiders 17, Seahawks 16

Jeff Hostetler and Tim Brown combined on a 77-yard touchdown pass in the fourth quarter, then the Raiders needed a botched field goal by Seattle to escape. The winning touchdown came after a remote-control car scurried around the Kingdome field, interrupting a Seahawks' touchdown drive in the final quarter.

John Kasay, who earlier connected on a 50-yarder and two other field goals, could have won it for Seattle (6-9) but was wide right from 43 yards with nine seconds left.

Giants 16, Eagles 13

Visiting New York (8-7) survived some final-second dramatics to win its fifth straight and stay in the playoff race.

Dave Meggett scored on a 5-yard run with 3:54 left and Brad Daluiso kicked an 18-yard field goal with 54 seconds left to lift the Giants and eliminate the Eagles (7-8), who lost their sixth straight.

The game ended in confusion. With the Eagles driving, the clock appeared to run out after a pass reception but the referee had two seconds put back on the clock. After Bobby Brister spiked the ball to stop the clock, Eddie Murray's 44-yard field goal attempt was wide left.

Chargers 21, Jets 6

The Chargers are AFC West champions as Stan Humphries threw three TD passes and Junior Seau knocked the Jets' Boomer Esiason (concussion) out of the game in the second quarter.

The Chargers (10-5) had lost their previous two games when a win would have given them their second division title in three years. Humphries (19 of 26 for 280 yards) connected on scoring passes of 2 yards to Mark Seay and 60 and 44 yards to Tony Martin, who had three catches for 116 yards.

Packers 21, Falcons 17

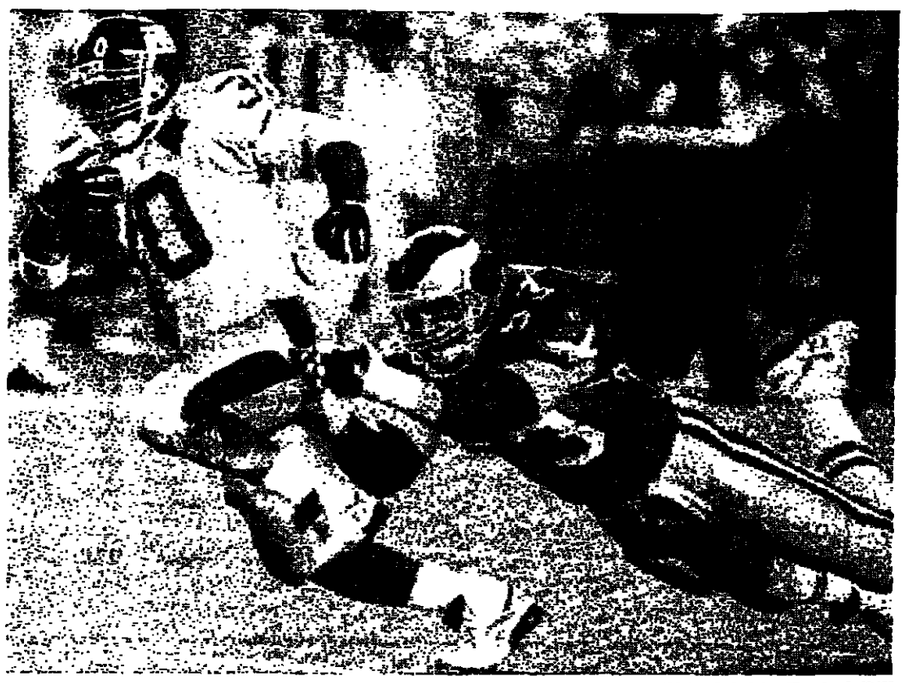
In the final game at Milwaukee after 61 seasons, Brett Favre (29 of 44 for 321 yards) scrambled 9 yards for a TD with 14 seconds to keep the Packers (8-7) in the playoff chase and knock out the Falcons (6-9).

Atlanta took its first lead, 17-14, with 5:33 left when Bobby Hebert hit Terance Mathis with a 5-yard TD pass and then Andre Rison with a 2-point conversion pass.

Cardinals 28, Bengals 7

Buddy Ryan's Cardinals are alive in the playoffs as Garrison Hearst ran for one TD and threw for another in the first quarter as Arizona won at home.

Arizona (8-7) must beat Atlanta next week and then have Dallas beat the Giants and 49ers beat Minnesota to make the playoffs for the first time since 1982.



GIANT STEPS – NY Giants' David Meggett (l) breaks a tackle by Philadelphia Eagles' Bill Romanowski while racking up a 20-yard pass completion. (Reuter)

Chiefs 31, Oilers 9

Joe Montana, out for two weeks with an injured left foot, returned just in time to revive host Kansas City's playoff chances. He threw two TD passes as the Chiefs (8-7) snapped a three-game losing streak and handed Houston its 11th straight loss. A win next week over the Raiders would give Kansas City a wild-card playoff spot.

Montana was 16 of 26 for 235 yards, bringing his career total to 40,337 – fourth in NFL history.

Bears 28, Rams 13

At Soldier Field, the Bears (9-6) held Los Angeles (4-11), losers of six straight, to 37 yards rushing. Jerome Bettis was held to 7 yards on eight carries.

Raymont Harris (23 carries, 92 yards) and Lewis Tillman ran for short TDs and Steve Walsh had a 3-yard TD pass to Keith Jennings in handing the Rams their sixth straight loss.

Colts 10, Dolphins 6

Dewell Brewer returned a punt 75 yards for a first-quarter TD and host Indianapolis (7-8) shut down Dan Marino in the closing minutes. The playoff-bound Dolphins can still clinch the AFC East with a win against Detroit next week.

Marino had the Dolphins at the Colts' 2, but Bernie Parmalee ran for no gain, then Marino threw three incomplete passes, the last with 2:47 to go.

SATURDAY'S RESULTS:
Detroit 41, Minnesota 19
San Francisco 42, Denver 19
SUNDAY'S RESULTS:
Green Bay 21, Atlanta 17
Chicago 27, LA Rams 13
New England 41, Buffalo 17
San Diego 21, NY Jets 6
Tampa Bay 17, Washington 14
Indianapolis 10, Miami 6
Arizona 28, Cincinnati 7
Kansas City 31, Houston 9
NY Giants 16, Philadelphia 13
Pittsburgh 17, Cleveland 7
LA Raiders 17, Seattle 16
LAST NIGHT:
Dallas at New Orleans
NEXT WEEK: Regular schedule will be played on Saturday, December 24.

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pf	Pa
*-Miami	9	6	0	.600	362	307
New England	9	6	0	.600	338	309
Buffalo	7	8	0	.467	331	346
Indianapolis	7	8	0	.467	297	311
NY Jets	6	9	0	.400	254	286

Central

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pf	Pa
*-Pittsburgh	12	3	0	.800	282	197
**-Cleveland	10	5	0	.667	305	195
Cincinnati	2	13	0	.133	243	376
Houston	1	14	0	.067	202	342

West

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pf	Pa
*-San Diego	10	5	0	.667	344	272
LA Raiders	9	6	0	.600	294	308
Kansas City	8	7	0	.533	300	289
Denver	7	8	0	.467	319	366
Seattle	6	9	0	.400	278	288

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pf	Pa
*-Dallas	11	3	0	.786	380	217
NY Giants	8	7	0	.533	284	295
Arizona	8	7	0	.533	229	257
Philadelphia	7	8	0	.467	276	275
Washington	2	13	0	.133	298	391

Central

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pf	Pa
Minnesota	9	6	0	.600	335	300
Detroit	9	6	0	.600	337	315
Chicago	9	6	0	.600	268	294
Green Bay	8	7	0	.533	348	268
Tampa Bay	6	9	0	.400	232	317

West

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pf	Pa
*-San Francisco	13	2	0	.867	491	275
New Orleans	6	8	0	.429	302	355
Atlanta	6	9	0	.400	307	379
LA Rams	4	11	0	.267	285	341

*-clinched division **-clinched playoff spot

England punished by Aussie youth

TOOWOOMBA (Reuter) – England discovered further evidence of the depth of Australia's young batting talent as Queensland's Andrew Symonds and Jimmy Maher thrashed unbeaten centuries against them yesterday.

After two maulings at the hands of the Australian Cricket Academy earlier this month, Michael Atherton's bowlers were punished by two of the Academy's old boys, with Symonds, 19, making 108 and 20-year-old Maher exactly 100.

Ironically for the touring team, Symonds was born in England before moving to Australia as a young child. He is qualified for England and will play county cricket for Gloucestershire next season, but after his innings he reaffirmed his desire to play for Australia.

The fifth-wicket pair added an unbroken 205 in 47 overs as Queensland, which resumed at 197 for four, declared its first innings at 392 for four – 115 behind.

England was 188 for three in its second innings at the close of the third day – 303 ahead – with Atherton facing a tricky decision on when to declare on the final day on a pitch still playing easily.

Symonds's innings spanned just 127 balls with 16 fours and three sixes. Maher was more subdued, facing 229 balls and hitting 11 fours.

When the second new ball was taken after lunch, Symonds and Maher made 57 in eight overs before the declaration, with Symonds going to his maiden first-class century in only his third match by hitting seamer Angus Fraser for two fours and a six in one over.

It was another trying day for England's attack, but there was some good news off the field when it was revealed seamer Joey Benjamin is not suffering from shingles after all.

Physiotherapist Dave Roberts confirmed that the rash which Benjamin had developed was merely a secondary infection and that he would rejoin the side in Melbourne tomorrow.

Baseball deadline may be extended

WASHINGTON (AP) – What could be the biggest week in the bitter baseball talks began slowly. And there's a chance that the twice-delayed deadline for implementation of a salary cap could be extended yet again.

Acting commissioner Bud Selig, speaking Sunday from his home in Milwaukee, said Thursday's deadline for an agreement between striking players and ownership stands for now. But he said owners might pause once again if the two sides come closer this week.

Owners voted last Thursday to give the ruling executive council, headed by Selig, the authority to declare an impasse and impose a salary cap if there isn't a deal by Thursday.

The news that Selig might be willing to extend the deadline once again, this time past Christmas, didn't come as a huge surprise to union head Donald Fehr.

"We've had a lot of deadlines in this thing that haven't meant much, whether it was our original strike date or their one last week," Fehr said.

Yesterday's talks were expected to be conducted at a low level, with staff meetings rather than full bargaining groups.

If the talks fail, and the owners take steps to impose the salary cap so steadfastly opposed by the players, Fehr warned the next battle would continue in litigation.

Too-tall ego short-changes NBA show

SPORTSWATCH

ARYEH DEAN COHEN

DO basketball fans really care if their favorite players can sing? Somebody apparently thinks so. Otherwise, how do you explain both Sports Channel's *Sal Basalon* (Basketball in the Living Room) and Prime Sports' *NBA Inside Stuff* featuring warbling jocks this week?

It could be because the two shows are almost exact clones of each other, with just about the same strengths and weaknesses: both hosts should be whistled for flagrant fouls for excessive ego-tripping. But they are frequently entertaining looks behind the scenes of the Israeli league and the NBA, respectively – when they stick to the game.

Sports Channel's effort (Thursday nights, 7:30 pm – currently on hiatus until the league returns to action in January) – is hosted by Yael Almog and Mody Bar-on and features a round-up of league action and portraits of and interviews with players.

Almog is delightful most of the time, displaying a knowledge of the game and a quick wit, helped along by some good writers, as in her comment about Hapoel Galil Elyon's struggling Darren Daye: "Is there any truth to the fact that Darren's Dayes are almost over?"

As for Bar-on, he tends to get overwhelmed by Almog, and in general, the two spend too much time giggling at each other's jokes. It ain't that funny, fellas.

A feature on Guy Goodes was cute, but someone must've slipped the *Forrest Gump* soundtrack into the studio – both *California Dreamin'* and *Turn, Turn, Turn* in the same feature? Goodes was still dribbling milk down his chin when those two were popular, so why use them as background music when showing him in his Haifa days?

Not so hot was the "At Home with Joe Dawson" feature, which dragged and spent too much time on neighbor Eli Ohana debating with the Maccabi Jerusalem hoopster over whose sport was more interesting. Boring, although Dawson does change a mean diaper.

Overall, however, *Sal Basalon* is fast-breaking fun, a bit irreverent, and nicely done by Almog. Ditch Bar-on and find someone who can keep up with her, and a bit more analysis, please.

As for *Inside Stuff*, host Ahmad Rashad should consider getting stuffed: he's a walking ego-machine who NBC wisely keeps on the sidelines during its NBA broadcasts. This week it was Clippers jokes' night. Rashad explained that during the Clippers' 16-game losing streak, things were so bad the club's Lloyd Vaught said: "I might just run away and you won't find me." "That would be the first runaway the Clippers have achieved all season," quipped Rashad, then added: "Funny stuff." Not really, Ahmad.

Inside Stuff flies too fast through highlights of the week's action although the "Rewind" section offers a nice selection of made and missed dunks. Rashad is incorrigible, though. A shot of a high school player scoring a basket by having the ball go in off his head brought the inevitable: "Now that's what I call using your *head*" from him. Sigh.

Thank God some nice Nike spots break up Rashad's rubbish and his sidekick Willow Bay's breezy reports. But shouldn't the NBA do something quick about an announcer who thinks it's funny to make fun of the way Denver's Zaire-born center Dikembe Mutombo talks? Outside of the interesting game footage, *Inside Stuff*, and especially Rashad, is a stiff.

'Aging' Drexler tears through Knicks with 33-point night

PORTLAND (AP) – Clyde Drexler put on a vintage show against the stumbling New York Knicks on Sunday night, scoring 33 points, 31 in the first three quarters, as the Portland Trail Blazers rolled to a 111-87 victory.

At age 32, nothing irritates Drexler more than the suggestion that his skills are eroding.

"What do you mean?," he said when someone said his breakaway slam dunk during the rout may have surprised people who felt he was no longer capable of such moves. "I don't know what you're talking about. I mean, I'm only 21."

He started to explain his philosophy on aging athletes, then stopped himself. "I don't even want to get into it," he said. "I mean, I don't think your skills start eroding until you're about 45."

Drexler made 14 of 19 field goal attempts and didn't have a turnover.

Rod Strickland added 17 points and 11 assists as Portland's starting guards outscored their New York counterparts 50-15. Starks and Derek Harper were a combined 4-for-19 shooting.

"Our perimeter game is nonexistent," Knick coach Pat Riley said. "I am not accusing a team like ours that has a collective heart of not trying. But I see a real trend developing where we're getting beat in a lot of phases.

The Blazers' Chris Dudley matched Ewing's rebound total with 14. Dudley, who faces Orlando's Shaquille O'Neal today, had to leave the game briefly late in the third quarter to get eight stitches above his left eye after catching an elbow from Ewing.

Just three weeks ago, he had eight stitches on his forehead after an elbow from Indiana's Rik Smits.

Charles Smith scored 18 for the Knicks, who finished their Pacific Division road trip at 1-2 with a victory over Sacramento and losses to Phoenix and Portland. New York's Charles Oakley missed all three games with a sore right toe.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Utah	16	6	.667	–
Houston	13	8	.619	1.5
Dallas	11	8	.579	2.5
Denver	11	9	.550	3
San Antonio	11	9	.550	3
Minnesota	5	17	.227	10

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Phoenix	17	5	.773	–
Seattle	14	7	.667	2.5
LA Lakers	13	8	.619	3.5
Portland	11	9	.550	5
Sacramento	11	10	.524	5.5
Golden State	8	14	.364	9
LA Clippers	3	19	.136	14

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Orlando	17	5	.773	–
New York	12	9	.571	4.5
Boston	10	13	.435	7.5
New Jersey	10	15	.400	8.5
Philadelphia	8	14	.364	9
Washington	6	13	.316	9.5
Miami	6	15	.286	10.5

Central Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Indiana	14	6	.700	–
Cleveland	14	8	.636	1
Charlotte	12	10	.545	3
Chicago	11	10	.524	3.5
Detroit	9	12	.429	5.5
Atlanta	9	14	.391	6.5
Milwaukee	7	14	.333	7.5

SUNDAY'S RESULTS: Utah 101, Milwaukee 98; New Jersey 103, Miami 102; Portland 111, New York 87.

The Sports Pages are edited by Joe Hoffman

Stoichkov wins Golden Ball

PARIS (AP) – Hristo Stoichkov, the Bulgarian striker who led his nation's team to the World Cup semifinals this year, last night won the Golden Ball, given to Europe's top soccer player.

Stoichkov, 28, who plays for FC Barcelona, beat out second-place finisher Roberto Baggio of Italy who plays for Juventus. 210 points to 136 in voting by 49 European sports journalists.

Baggio won last year.

Italian Paolo Maldini who plays for Milan AC was third with 109 points, while Tomas Brolin, a Swede who plays for Parma, and Gheorge Hagi, a Romanian who plays for Barcelona, tied for fourth place with 68 points.

Stoichkov's Barcelona coach Johan Cruyff is a three-time winner of the Golden Ball.

The prize is awarded by the weekly magazine *France Football*.

Stoichkov last week was named Bulgaria's top soccer player for 1994, the fifth time in six years he won the honor. He tied for the most goals (six) scored at the World Cup finals in the US this summer, and powered Barcelona to its fourth straight Spanish league title.

Meanwhile, Maurizio Gaudino, the German World Cup player who was held last week on suspicion of dealing in stolen goods, has been loaned to Premier League club Manchester City.

Prosecutors suspect Gaudino of helping people file large insurance claims for luxury cars wrongly reported stolen.

SCOREBOARD

NATIONAL BASKETBALL LEAGUE – Hapoel Eilat beat hosts Betar Ramat Gan 143-80 last night.

Quality Classifieds

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GENERAL

DWELLINGS

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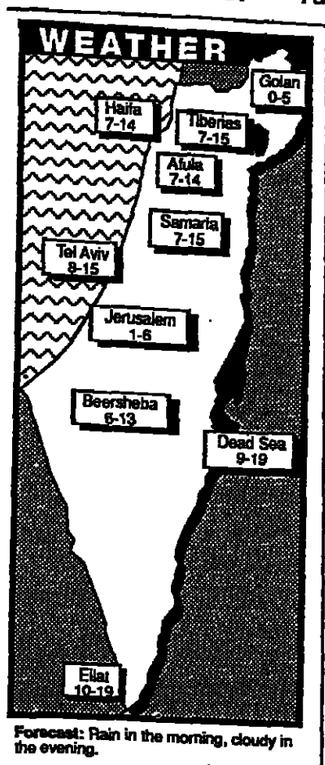
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WEATHER



Forecast: Rain in the morning, cloudy in the evening.

AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW C	LOW F	HIGH C	HIGH F	
Amsterdam	03	37	07	45	cloudy
Berlin	-01	30	03	37	cloudy
Buenos Aires	14	57	23	73	clear
Cairo	11	52	17	63	clear
Chicago	-05	23	03	37	rain
Copenhagen	02	36	05	41	rain
Frankfurt	05	41	05	41	cloudy
Geneva	02	36	04	39	rain
Helsinki	-06	21	-03	27	cloudy
Hong Kong	17	63	19	66	cloudy
Jo'burg	14	57	26	79	clear
Lisbon	03	46	17	63	p.cloudy
London	05	41	06	43	cloudy
Los Angeles	09	48	21	69	clear
Madrid	01	34	08	43	rain
Moscow	-09	-15	-03	-08	clear
New York	03	30	09	48	clear
Paris	03	37	08	46	clear
Rome	01	34	11	52	cloudy
Stockholm	03	37	04	39	rain
Sydney	22	72	28	82	cloudy
Tokyo	02	32	08	46	clear
Toronto	00	32	04	39	cloudy
Vienna	00	32	03	37	cloudy

WHERE TO GO

JERUSALEM

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TEL AVIV

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HAIFA

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Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: Merkaz Ra'anana, 120 Ahuza, Ra'anana, 903798.
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Haifa: Derech Hayam, 209 Derech Hayam, 371472.
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Rape Crisis Center (24 hours), Tel Aviv 5234819, 5449191 (men), Jerusalem 514455, Haifa 660111, Eilat 31977.

The National Poison Control Center at Rambam Hospital 04-529205, for emergency calls 24 hours a day, for information in case of poisoning.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

ENGLISH THEATER

HELEN KAYE

STORYTELLING, anyone? Yes, and then some with the UK's Besht Tellers and *Telling Tales*, an evening of Jewish stories from actors Robbie Gringras and Danny Scheinmann. They bring the stories to exuberant life in a performance that has had audiences stomping their feet from London to Hong Kong. Today at the Kfar Sava Municipal Auditorium at 8:30 p.m.

The Six Day War made him a hero. The Yom Kippur War turned him into a pariah. Hillel Mittelpunkt's *Gorodish* explores Israel's journey from arrogant euphoria to bewildered disillusionment through the life of Maj.-Gen. Shmuel (Gorodish) Gonen. On the Cameri mainstage at 8:30 p.m. (Hebrew with simultaneous translation into English)

ENTERTAINMENT

HELEN KAYE

MAGIC is what happens onstage whenever Philippe Genty and his wonderful troupe visit. *Drifting* won the the UK's Olivier Award in 1992, but is making its first showing here. Life-size puppets share the stage with the actors, the Manhattan skyline, a big pink plastic fish and a naked lady, all sprinkled with Genty stardust. Tonight and through January 2 on the Haifa Theater mainstage at 8:30 p.m. (non-verbal)



Besht Tellers Robbie Gringras and Danny Scheinmann present an evening of Jewish stories entitled 'Telling Tales.'

HAPPENING

HELEN KAYE

HAIFA'S Beit Hagefen Arab-Jewish Cultural Center has organized a 10-day cultural festival called *Days of Friendship and Brotherhood*. Spread around the galleries and stores of Wadi Nisnas is a veritable beanfeast of exhibitions (80 artist are on show), discussions, crafts, a spice market, workshops, performances and street theater. Every day has a special event, and there are guided tours around the galleries. Today through December 29. Info: 04-525251/2.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AIZENSTADT

FRENCH early music ensemble Les Zephyrs performs tonight (8:30 p.m.) music by Handel, Telemann and Clairambault at the Tel Aviv Museum.

David Amram leads the Ra'anana Symphonette tonight (8:30 p.m.) in a special program with popular singer/guitarist David Broza at the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv.

The Haifa Symphony Orchestra celebrates its 45th season with a festive gala concert tomorrow (8:30 p.m.) at the Haifa Auditorium with Sergiu Comissiona, the orchestra's first-ever music director, on the podium.

The program features Verdi's *La forza del destino* overture, the world premiere of Zohar Kahila's *Music for Strings: 1994*, De Falla's *The Three Cornered Hat* with Susanna Poretsky as soloist, and Canadian pianist Louis Lortie performing Rachmaninov's Second Piano Concerto.

DANCE

MICHAEL AIZENSTADT

THE Bat-Dor Dance Company performs tonight at its own theater in Tel Aviv (8:30 p.m.) Hans Van Manen's *In and Out*, Ivan Feller-Ducach's evocative and athletic *Enigma* and Gigi Caciuleanu's striking *Cartoons*, danced to the music of Saint-Saens's *Carnival of the Animals*.

CINEMA

JERUSALEM
CINEMATHEQUE The Lost Honor of Katerina Blum 7 ★ Le Vieil Homme et L'enfant 7:30 ★ Like Water for Chocolate 9:30 ★ The Teacher 9:30 G.G. Gil. Jerusalem Mall (Malha) ☎ 788448 Interview With the Vampire•The Specialist 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 ★ The Real McCoy 4:30, 7, 9:30 ★ Timecop 4:30, 7, 9:30 ★ Forrest Gump 4:30, 7, 9:45 ★ Natural Born Killers 4:30, 7, 9:30 ★ Clear and Present Danger weekdays 4:15, 7, 9:45 JERUSALEM THEATER Lifetimes 7, 9:30 ★ Geminal 6, 9 ORION True Lies 4:45, 6:45, 9:15 ★ The Client•Strawberry and Chocolate 5, 7:15, 9:15 ★ Priscilla•The Shadow 5, 7:30, 9:30 RAV CHEN 1-7 ☎ 792799 Credit Card Reservations ☎ 794477 Rav-Mecher Building, 19 Ha'oman St., Talpiot Chasers•Gilbert Grape•The Siren's Song•Nightmare Before Christmas 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ Four Weddings and a Funeral 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ Pulp Fiction 4, 7, 9:45 ★ Renaissance Man 5, 7:15, 9:45 RON 1-2 ☎ 234704 1 Rabbi Akiva St. Bad Girls•It Could Happen To You 5, 7:30, 9:30

TEL AVIV
CINEMATHEQUE Les Violons du Bal 7 ★ Trois Coleurs:Bleu 9:30 ★ The Essence of Green Papaya 5, 7:30, 9:45 DEKEL ☎ 5443200 94 Yehuda Hamaccabi St. It Could Happen To You 7:30, 9:45 DIZENGOFF 1-3 ☎ 200485 Dizengoff Center Gilbert Grape 11 a.m., 1, 3, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45 ★ Reservoir Dogs 11 a.m., 1, 3, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45 ★ Burnt by the Sun 11 a.m., 4:15, 7 ★ True Romance 2, 9:45 DRIVE IN The Client 10 ★ Sex Film 12 midnight GAN HA'IR Priscilla 5, 7:30, 9:45 GAT Renaissance Man 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 GORDON The Woman Who Made Sesame Oil 6, 8 ★ The Diary of Nanl Moretti 10 HAKOLNOA ZOA HOUSE ☎ 6959341 26 Ibn Gabirol St. Tsahal 2 G.G. HOD 1-4 ☎ 5228090 Hod Passage, 101 Dizengoff St. Forrest Gump 1:30, 4:30, 7:15, 10 ★ Timecop•Priscilla•The Specialist 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10 LEV 1-4 ☎ 5288288 Natural Born Killers 4:45, 7:30, 9:45 ★ Lifetimes 12:15, 2:30, 5, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Raining Stones 12 noon, 2, 4, 8 ★ Naked 10 ★ Ladybird 12 noon, 2, 6 MAXIM Speed 7:15, 9:30 RAV-CHEN☎ 5282288* Dizengoff Center Pulp Fiction 1:15, 4:15, 7, 9:45 ★ Bad Girls 7:30, 9:45 ★ Chasers 11:30 a.m., 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ The Siren's Song 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ The Color of the Night 11:30 a.m., 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ RAV-OR 1-5 ☎ 5102674* Opera House Serial Mom•Sirens•Nightmare Before Christmas 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ The Lion King (English dialogue) 7:30, 9:45 ★ The Lion King (Hebrew dialogue) weekdays 5 ★ Four Weddings and a Funeral 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 G.G. SHAHAF 1-2 ☎ 5271645 Kikar Namir Forrest Gump 4:30, 7:15, 10 ★ The Client 5, 7:30, 10 G.G. TAYELET 1-3 ☎ 5177952 2 Yona Hanavi St. The Specialist 5, 7:30, 10 ★ Clear and Present Danger•True Lies 4:30, 7:15, 10 G.G. TEL AVIV ☎ 5281181 65 Pinsker St. The Real McCoy•Interview With the Vampire 5, 7:30, 10 ★ The Shadow weekdays 5, 7:30, 10 TEL AVIV MUSEUM ☎ 6961297 27 Shaul Hamelekh Boulevard The House of Angels 5, 7:30, 10 ZAFON Geminal 4, 7, 9:45

HAIFA
CINEMA CAFÉ AMAMI ☎ 325755 Burnt by the Sun 6:45, 9:15 ★ The House of Angels 7, 9:15 ATZMON 1-5 ☎ 573003 Interview With the Vampire•Forrest Gump•The Specialist•The Real McCoy 4:30, 7, 9:30 ★ Timecop 4:30, 7, 9:15 CINEMA CAFÉ MORIAH ☎ 242477 Priscilla 7:30, 9:30 CINEMATHEQUE The Crying Game 8:30 ORLY Lifetimes 6:45, 9:15 PANORAMA 1-3 ☎ 382020 The Client•Natural Born Killers•The Color of the Night 4:30, 7, 9:30 RAV-GAT 1-2 ☎ 674311 Pulp Fiction 6:30, 9:15 ★ Four Weddings and a Funeral 5, 7, 9:15 RAV-MOR 1-7 ☎ 416899/8 Renaissance Man•Gilbert Grape•Bad Girls•Chasers, 4:45, 7, 9:15 ★ Four Weddings and a Funeral 4:45, 7, 9:15 ★ Pulp Fiction 6:30, 9:15 ★ Angels 4:45, 7 ★ The Color of the Night 9:15 RAV-OR 1-3 ☎ 246553 Renaissance Man 4:30, 7, 9:15 ★ Nightmare Before Christmas 4:45, 7, 9:15 ★ Gilbert Grape 7, 9:15 ★ Angels 4:45

ARAD
STAR Four Weddings and a Funeral 7:15, 9:30 ★ The Specialist 7:15, 9:45 ★ The Color of the Night 7:15, 9:30

ASHDOD
G.G. GIL The Real McCoy•Interview with the Vampire•Four Weddings and a Funeral 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Forrest Gump 9:45 ★ Angels 4:45, 7:15 ★ Timecop 4:45, 7:15, 9:45

ASHKELON
G.G. GIL Interview with the Vampire•The Real McCoy•Timecop•The Specialist 5, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Forrest Gump 4, 7, 9:45 RAV CHEN 1-5 ☎ 711223 Bad Girls•Chasers•The Color of the Night 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ Pulp Fiction 4, 7, 9:45 ★ Four Weddings and a Funeral 9:45 ★ Angels 5, 7:15

BAT YAM
RAV CHEN ☎ 5531077 Interview with the Vampire•The Real McCoy•Timecop 5, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Chasers•The Specialist 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ The Color of the Night 9:45 ★ Bad Girls 5, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Angels 5, 7:30

BEERSHEBA
G.G.GIL Interview With the Vampire 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 ★ The Specialist 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Timecop 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Forrest Gump 4:30, 7, 9:45 RAV-NEGEV 1-4 Pulp Fiction 4, 7, 9:45 ★ It Could Happen to You 9:45 ★ Angels 5, 7:30 ★ Four Weddings and a Funeral 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ The Color of the Night 5, 7:30, 9:45

DIMONA
MOFET Wolt 8

HADERA
LEV 1-4 ☎ 343555 Interview With The Vampire•Natural Born Killers 5, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Forrest Gump 7, 9:45 ★ Baby's Day Out 5 ★ Four Weddings and a Funeral 5, 7:15, 9:30

HERZLIYA
COLONY CINEMA 1-2 (MANDARIN) ☎ 6902666 Forrest Gump 7:30, 10:15 ★ Four Weddings and a Funeral 7:30, 10 DANIEL HOTEL ☎ 544044 THE AUDITORIUM Natural Born Killers 7:15, 9:45 STAR☎ 589068 29 Sokolov St. The Real McCoy 5:30, 7:30, 9:45 ★ Forrest Gump 7:15, 9:45 ★ Interview With the Vampire 7:30, 10

HOD HASHARON
MOFET ☎ 405616 The Specialist 7:15, 9:30

KARMIEL
CINEMA 1-3 ☎ 887277 The Specialist 7, 9:30 ★ Pulp Fiction 6:30, 9:15 ★ True Lies 6:45, 9:30

KFAR SAVA
G.G. GIL Interview With the Vampire•Four Weddings and a Funeral 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Forrest Gump 4:45, 7:15, 10 ★ The River Wild 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 ★ The Real McCoy 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 ★ The Color of the Night 9:45 ★ Angels 4:45, 7:15

KIRYAT BIALIK
G.G. KIRYON 1-9 ☎ 779166 Interview With The Vampire•Forrest Gump 4:45, 7, 9:30 ★ When a Man Loves a Woman 4:45, 7, 9:30 ★ Timecop•The Real McCoy 4:45, 7, 9:30 ★ Monkey Trouble•The Mask 4:45, 7 ★ Baby's Day Out 4:45, 7, 9:30 ★ The Specialist 4:45, 7, 9:30

KIRYAT MALACHI
HAKIRYA The Specialist 5, 7:30, 9:30
MOFET The Color of the Night 7:15, 9:30

LOD
STAR The Specialist 7:15, 9:30 ★ Ace Ventura 7:15, 9:30 ★ Naked Gun 9:30 ★ The Color of the Night 7:15

NAHARIYA
HECHAL HATARBUT I Love Trouble 7, 9:15

NESS ZIONA
G.G. GIL 1-4 ☎ 404729 Interview With The Vampire 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Timecop 5, 7:15, 9:45 ★ The Real McCoy 5, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Forrest Gump 4:30, 7, 9:45

NETANYA
G.G. GIL 1-5 ☎ 628452 Interview With The Vampire•The Real McCoy 5, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Forrest Gump 4:30, 7, 9:45 ★ Timecop 5, 7:15, 9:45 ★ The Specialist 5, 7:15, 9:45 RAV-CHEN 1-4 ☎ 618570 Pulp Fiction 4, 7, 9:45 ★ Chasers 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ Four Weddings and a Funeral 9:45 ★ Angels 5, 7:15

OR YEHUDA
G.G. GIL Threesome•The Color of the Night•It Could Happen to You 5, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Aya 7:15, 9:45 ★ Baby's Day Out 5

PETAH TIKVA
G.G. HECHAL 1-3 ☎ 9300844 Interview With the Vampire 5, 7:15, 9:45 ★ The Real McCoy 5, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Forrest Gump 4:30, 7, 9:45 G. G. RAM 1-3 Timecop•Natural Born Killers•The Color of the Night 5, 7:15, 9:45

RA'ANANA MOFET When a Man Loves a Woman 7:30, 9:30 PARK Four Weddings and a Funeral 5, 7:30, 10 ★ Interview With The Vampire 5, 7:30, 10 ★ Forrest Gump 7:15, 10 ★ Baby's Day Out 5 ★ Renaissance Man 5, 7:30,1 10 ★ Threesome 5, 7:30, 9:45

RAMAT GAN
RAV-GAN 1-4 ☎ 797121 Four Weddings and a Funeral•Renaissance Man 5, 7:15, 9:45 ★ The Siren's Song 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ Forrest Gump 7, 9:45 ★ Angels 5 RAV-OASIS 1-3 ☎ 6730687 The Color of the Night 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ Interview With The Vampire 5, 7:15, 9:45 ★ The Real McCoy 5, 7:30, 9:45

RAMAT HASHARON
KOKHAV ☎ 5491979 When a Man Loves a Woman 7, 9:30

REHOVOT
CHEN 1-4 ☎ 465979 Interview With The Vampire•The Siren's Song•Timecop 7:15, 9:45 ★ Priscilla 7:30, 9:45

RISHON LEZION
HAZAHAV Interview With The Vampire 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Into the West•The Shadow 4:30, 7, 9:45 ★ Clear and Present Danger weekdays 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 RAV CHEN Pulp Fiction 4, 7, 9:45 ★ Four Weddings and a Funeral 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ The Color of the Night 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ Renaissance Man 5, 7:15, 9:45

RISHON NEW IND. AREA
GAL 1-5 ☎ 9619669 The Real McCoy•The Specialist 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Angels 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Timecop 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Burnt by the Sun 4:30, 7, 9:45 STAR 1-4 ☎ 9619985-7 27 Lishinsky St. The Color of the Night 9:45 ★ Baby's Day Out 7:15 ★ The Siren's Song 7:15, 9:45 ★ It Could Happen To You 7:15 ★ Priscilla 7:15, 9:45 ★ Priscilla 7:15, 9:45 ★ Bad Girls 7:15

UPPER NAZARETH
G.G GIL ☎ 06-561332 The Color of the Night•The Specialist•Interview With The Vampire•Aya 4:45, 7, 9:30 ★ Forrest Gump 4, 7, 9:45

* Tone phone reservations 03-5252244
All times are p.m. unless otherwise indicated.

TELEVISION

■ CHANNEL 1

6:30 News in Arabic 6:45 Cartoon 7:00 Good Morning Israel

■ EDUCATIONAL TV

8:00 Design in Europe 8:30 Literature 8:55 Arithmetic 9:25 Musical story 9:45 Arabic stories 9:55 Education News Flash 10:00 Family Relations 10:30 A Matter of Time 11:00 Science and Technology 11:25 Science 11:35 English: Candy Can Do It 11:55 Education News Flash 12:00 Israeli geography 12:20 Science 12:45 Literature of the World 13:30 Keep Fit 13:55 Education News Flash 14:00 Pingo – cartoon 14:05 Bananas in Pyjamas – cartoon 14:15 Cartoon 14:30 Simon and the Witch 14:45 Stories of Alton Street 15:00 Children's current affairs program

■ CHANNEL 1

15:30 Tom and Jerry 16:00 Zap to One 16:55 Hebrew language corner 17:00 A New Evening 17:35 Press Gang 18:00 Rugrats 18:15 News in English

ARABIC PROGRAMS
18:30 Apropos 19:00 News in Arabic

HEBREW PROGRAMS
19:30 All's Chaos in the Family 20:00 Mabat 20:55 Live broadcast of Lotto results 21:00 Nine Squared – game show 21:30 A Second Look – Investigative program 22:30 Entertainment with Yair Lapid 23:30 News magazine 00:00 Love At First Sight

■ CHANNEL 2

14:00 Zehu Zeh (rpt) 15:00 Flick Flak 16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful 17:00 Reshef at Five 17:30 Sports Magazine 18:00 Power Ranger – adventure 18:30 Paradise Beach 19:00 Alf 19:30 Who's the Boss 20:00 News 20:30 Wheel of Fortune 21:05 Gabi Gazit 22:35 NYPD Blues 23:30 Film: Les Valseuses – two small-time scoundrels who live off minor crimes get caught up in a murder case. Starring Gerard Depardieu 00:00 News 00:00 Les Valseuses (continued)

■ JORDAN TV (unofficial)

17:00 French programs 18:30 News in French 19:00 News in Hebrew 19:15 Nature of Things 19:30 News headlines in English 19:33 FBI: Untold Stories 20:00 World Echo 20:30 Quantum Leap 21:10 Cracking the Code 22:00 News in English 22:20 House of Eliott 23:10 Fly by Night

■ MIDDLE EAST TV

14:00 700 Club 14:55 Film: Elizabeth of Ladymeade – Comedy drama starring Anna Neagle as aristocratic lady who welcomes home four husbands from four different wars. Directed by Herbert Wilcox (97 mins) 16:30 Mighty Mouse 16:55 Jonny Quest 17:20 Dangermouse 17:45 Flying House 18:10 Documentary 19:10 Rescue 911 20:00 World News Tonight (Arabic) 20:30 CNN Headline News 21:00 America's Funniest Home Videos 21:30 Star Trek: The Next Generation 22:30 Babylon 23:10 700 Club 00:00 Special Programs

CABLE

■ FAMILY CHANNEL (3)

8:00 Local Broadcast 9:00 One Life to Live 9:45 The Young and the Restless 10:30 Guests in the Living Room 11:00 I Love Lucy 11:30 Celeste 12:15 Neighbors 12:40 Falcon Crest 13:30 Designing Women 14:00 Israeli Clips 14:15 I'll Fly Away 15:00 Topaz 15:45 Knots Landing 16:35 Neighbors 17:00 Love Boat 17:50 Israeli Clips 18:05 One Life to Live 18:50 The Young and the Restless 19:35 Local broadcast 20:00 Celeste 20:50 Falcon Crest 21:40 Cheers 22:10 Seinfeld (long episode) 23:00 Burke's Law – new detective series 23:45 Coach 00:10 The Commish 1:00 Murder She Wrote

■ MOVIE CHANNEL (4)

10:30 Habitation of Dragons (1992) (rpt) 12:05 Short movie 13:00 In a Lonely Place (1950) (rpt) 14:35 This Girl for Hire (1983) (rpt) 16:10 Doing Life (1986) (rpt) 17:50 Crime of Innocence (1985) – tough judge sentences two young women to a harsh jail term to teach them a lesson 19:25 The Man in a Brown Suit (1988) (rpt) 21:00 Year of the Gun (1991) – thriller directed by John Frankenheimer set in Italy in the 1970s when a young American finds himself involved in the kidnap and murder by the Red Brigade of prime minister Aldo Moro. 22:50 Hardware (1990) – futuristic action movie. After a nuclear war a broken robot rebuilds itself and goes back to doing the job it was programmed for: killing humans. Staring Jon Lynch and Iggy Pop 00:25 London Kills Me (1991) (rpt) 2:10 Track 29 (1988) (rpt)

■ CHILDREN (6)

6:30 Cartoons 9:00 Cartoons 9:35 Wild West C.O.W. 10:00 Orson and Olivia 10:35 He-Man 11:05 Family Ties 11:40 Beverly Hills 90201 12:40 Animal Park 13:00 Cartoons 13:35 Dreamstone 14:00 Three Musketeers 14:35 Once Upon a Time 15:05 He-Man 15:35 Saved by the Bell 16:00 Flying Classroom 16:10 Beverly Hills 90210 17:05 Owl TV 17:30 Tazmania 17:45 Hugo 18:05 Wild West C.O.W. 18:30 Orson and Olivia 19:00 Cartoons 19:30 Three's Company 20:00 Married with Children 20:25 Hanging with Mr. Cooper 20:45 All in the Family 21:15 Law and Order

■ SECOND SHOWING (6)

22:00 Mignion (1988) – Italian drama. When her father is sent to jail a teenage girl from France is sent to live with her uncles in Italy, but her high-class language and her fussy manners clash with the local customs 23:40 The Strong Man (1926) – see Pick of the Flicks

■ DISCOVERY (8)

6:00 Open University: History 11:00 Death by Design 12:00 Shadows – The Tragedy of Syrian Jewry 13:00 Police Chiefs 14:00 Open University (rpt of morning's programs) 16:00 Death by Design 17:00 Shadows – The Tragedy of Syrian Jewry 18:00 Open University (rpt of morning's programs) 20:00 Pacific Outdoors 20:30 Festivals of the World 21:00 Zulu Legend 22:00 Torture 23:00 Police Chiefs 00:00 Open University (rpt of morning's programs)

■ SUPER CHANNEL

7:00 Business Insiders 7:30 NBC News 8:00 ITN World News Live 8:15 US Market Wrap 8:30 Business Insiders 9:00 ITN World News 9:15 US Market Wrap 9:30 Inside Edition 10:00 Super Shop 11:00 Rolonda 12:00 Rivera 13:00 Today's Business 13:30 FT Business Today 14:00 Today 16:00 The Money Wheel 18:30 FT Business Tonight 19:00 Today 20:00 ITN World News Live 20:30 Executive Lifestyles 21:00 Entertainment X-Press 21:30 Best of Dateline 22:30 Inside Edition 23:00 ITN World News Live 23:30 The Tonight Show with Jay Leno 00:30 Real Personal 1:00 FT Business Tonight 1:30 Nightly News with Tom Brokaw

■ STAR PLUS

6:00 Donahue 7:00 El Features 7:30 Aerobics 8:00 Neighbors 8:30 Santa Barbara 9:30 The Bold and the Beautiful 10:00 Oprah Winfrey 11:00 Riviera 11:30 Yan Can Cook 12:00 Aerobics 12:30 The Sullivans 13:00 Small Wonder 13:30 Robotech 14:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 14:30 Batman 15:00 E! TV 15:30 Neighbors 16:00 M*A*S*H 16:30 Miniseries: Mistral's Daughter (part 2 of 4) 18:30 The Bold and the Beautiful 19:00 Santa Barbara 20:00 The Twilight Zone 20:30 M*A*S*H 21:00 Baywatch 22:00 E! TV 22:30 Neighbors 23:00 Miniseries: Cellini – A Violent Life (part 3 of 3) 1:00 Perfect Scoundrels

RADIO

■ VOICE OF MUSIC

6:06 Waking to Music 9:00 Schein: Sacred Concerto op 3 (Rheinische Kantorei/Musica Pieta/Wilson) ±10:10 Locatelli: Violin concerto no 7; Haydn: String quartet in E flat op 20/1 (Mosaic Qt, period instruments); Chopin: 2 Ballades, in F op 38, in A flat op 47 (Gabrilov) ±11:00 Mozart: Symphony no 31 "Paris" (18th Cent/Bruggen); Weber: Clarinet quintet op 34 (Brunner/Hagen Qt); Beethoven: Piano sonata no 32 in C minor op 111 (Solomon) ±12:10 Walton: Cello concerto (Harrell/Birmingham SO/Rattle); Ravel: Alcyone cantata; Shostakovich: 24 Preludes op 34 (Mustonen) 14:06 Encore – tenor Jussi Bjoerling in arias and Swedish songs 16:00 Schoenberg: Suite op 29 (Boston Chamber Players); Verdi: Requiem (Ricciarelli, Verrett, Domingo/La Scala/Abbado) 18:00 From the Recording Studio – Miriam Meltzer (soprano), Ora Rotem-Neiken (piano). R. Strauss: 6 songs; Haim Alexander: 3 songs; Schubert: 6 songs; Richard R. Bennett: 5 songs from A Garland for Marjory Fleming; John McCabe: 3 Folk Songs (with clarinetist Yehuda Golani) 19:05 Krumpholtz: Harp sonata in B flat (Mulrova); Schubert: Sonatina in A minor D385 (orig for violin and piano) (Stoltzman, clarinet/Good, piano); Faure: Piano trio in D minor op 120 (Beaux Arts); Poulenc: Intermezzo no 2 in D flat (Parkin, piano) 20:03 Palestrina Mirrored in his Time 21:00 Nikolai Demidenko in recital, Wigmore Hall, London, 1993 – works by Voricek, Haydn, Scarlatti, Schumann, Mendelssohn, Kalkbrenner, Beethoven-Liszt, Berg, Buxtehude-Prokofiev, Liszt, Schubert 23:00 Golden Generation – Kathleen Ferrier. English folk songs; Bach: Aria from St Matthew Passion; Mahler: 3 movements from Das Lied von der Erde

■ RADIO 3

Music all day and night

■ REKA

18:00 News in English 18:15 News in French 20:00 News in Russian

■ ARMY RADIO

5:02 Good Morning IDF 6:00 Announcements 6:05 University of the Air – Military Ethics 6:30 Good Morning Israel 7:07 Seven-O-Seven 8:00 Good Morning Israel 9:05 It's Difficult in the Morning 10:05 Right Now 12:50 Today's Entertainment 13:00 Midday News 13:15 It's Uncertain 15:05 Someone to Talk To 16:00 An Hour Before 17:00 Good Evening Israel 18:05 Economics 18:30 Eavesdropping 20:00 Evening news – Channel 2 TV broadcast 20:30 Legal matters 21:05 David Broza Live 00:10 Night Birds 2:00 We Don't Want to Sleep

■ ARMY ON WHEELS

7:05 The State on the Way 9:05 Songs 10:05 Sun 12:05 Air Conditioning 13:05 Showers 14:05 Something for the Road 15:05 Program with Yoav Kutner 16:05 Driving Wisely 18:05 Program with Lea Oz 20:05 Below the Belt 22:05 Good Night

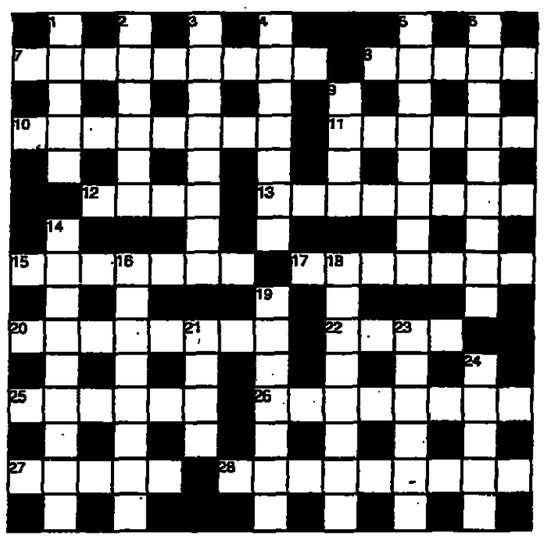
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

7 A game's the main point for a defender (9)
8 Boats in a lake elsewhere providing a king with fish (5)
10 Entreaty certain to produce agreeable sensations (8)
11 Positive declaration about legislation on eggs (6)
12 A legal document unaffected by revolution (4)
13 Child seeing the Changing of the Guard (8)
15 Bear with a blemish following us around (7)
17 In every teacher is hidden treasure (7)
20 College heavyweight in Jamaica (8)
22 Remarkably, Scots may be found in Runcorn (4)
25 Teacher taking people to high ground (6)
26 Gain from saving in concern (8)
27 Inexperienced but ecologically sound (5)
28 Rubs shine in or rubs shine out (9)

DOWN

1 Drink after swallowing very soft fruit (5)
2 Split stick (6)
3 I sang due to change in part of mass (5,3)
4 Goes up when five score goals (7)
5 Pour the tea, taking trouble about measure (2,6)
6 Everyone I upset with banter is uncomfortable (3,2,4)
9 Forbidden meat a butcher provides (4)
14 "True men" is false (9)
16 Got up number in concert? (8)
18 Ghostly appearance that is difficult to forget (8)
19 Opposed to having half of August over in the West Indies (7)
21 High water is found, thanks to the navy (4)
23 Noted singer not completing a course in composition (6)
24 Queen Elizabeth's favourite county (5)



SOLUTIONS



Yesterday's Quick Solution
ACROSS: 1 Furze, 4 Stayed, 9 Regular, 10 Trade, 11 Rode, 12 Eternal, 13 Car, 14 Trio, 16 Eddy, 18 Aid, 20 Enlists, 21 Idle, 24 Alarm, 25 Esmarc, 26 Deemed, 27 Irate.

DOWN: 1 Future, 2 Rigid, 3 Eels, 5 Tattered, 6 Yearned, 7 Deeply, 8 Order, 13 Consumme, 15 Release, 17 Regard, 18 Ashen, 19 Severe, 22 Drama, 23

Interior Ministry data on citizens winds up in hands of private firm

BILL HUTMAN

POLICE are investigating how computer listings of the name, age, and address of every citizen – information normally only held by the Interior Ministry – have ended up in the hands of at least one private company.

The company, Makbalit, put the information, and other data normally only held by government agencies and forbidden for publication, up for sale on CD-ROM diskettes.

But Makbalit recently closed up shop, and its owners went into hiding, after getting word they were suspected of wrongdoing, according to Investigations Division chief, Cmdr. Yossi Levy.

He said that about 10 days ago, police began probing what appears to be a serious breach of the privacy laws.

The company probably received most the information from registers of voters that were lent by the Interior Ministry to political parties preparing for last year's municipal elections, according to sources involved in the case.

The registers are lent to the parties before every election, on condition that they are not copied or turned over to others, the sources added.

They said it is believed that the registrars have previously been copied and sold to private companies interested in the information. However, new CD-ROM technology used in the last election made the registers more open to misuse.

"The investigation has just gotten underway," Levy said. "There is still no certainty that the Interior Ministry or any political party is involved."

An answering machine took all calls to Magbalit yesterday, and calls were not returned.

About a year ago, the Justice Ministry opened its own probe into an anonymous complaint that Interior Ministry population records had been illegally copied. The little information discovered was turned over to police.

The entire case received no publicity until last week, when Justice Minister David Liba'i, answering a months old parliamentary question from MK Benny Temkin (Meretz), said a probe was underway.

Haim Klugeman, director-general of the Justice Ministry and chairman of the the Public Right to Privacy Council, said the case reflects a dangerous trend.

"People simply are not aware of the seriousness of the situation," he said, noting that much of the information allegedly illegally taken from the Interior Ministry could be compiled from legal sources.

Winter storm leaves snow, hail and sleet in its icy path

DAVID RUDGE

WINTER tightened its grip on the country yesterday as heavy snow fell on Mt. Hermon and sleet, hail, an rain, swept other parts of the country.

Strong winds, gusting up to gale force at times, uprooted trees in several places but there were no reports of any major accidents. The road to Mt. Hermon was closed due to snow storms and traffic jams were reported on many highways because of the weather conditions.

Light snow fell on northern peaks in the Galilee last night, including Mt. Meron and Safed, as well as in Hebron earlier in the day.

The meteorological service said there was a chance of snow in hilly central regions, including Jerusalem, last night although the cold weather front was moving on.

In the north, the Tanur (Nahal Ayoun) Nature Reserve was closed to visitors because trails had been washed away by flood-waters. Visitors were also advised to steer clear of the Hatzbaneh reserve for similar reasons.

Staff at the Mt. Hermon ski site said over 1.5 meters of snow had accumulated on the peak and about 80 centimeters on the lower slopes.

They said the site would be opened for skiing later this week, for the first time this season.

More than 10,000 visitors wishing to see and play in the snow have already made the trek to the snow-capped mountain in the past few weeks, although the accumulation of snow was insufficient to open ski runs.

A small village in the Upper Galilee was cut off for a short time yesterday due to flooding. Yitzhak Eli, head of the Mevo'ot Hermon Regional Council, said the only access to the settlement, known as Karkoum, was via a dirt road that had once been used by heavy IDF vehicles going up to the Golan.

"Every time there is heavy rain, the dirt road is flooded and the residents are cut off. The village is three kilometers from the nearest paved road and it would cost NIS 5 million to have it properly surfaced, which the people themselves cannot afford", said Eli.

He said the regional council had appealed to the Treasury to give the Housing Ministry special funding to enable "this essential work to be carried out."

Severe flooding was also reported in several places in the south, especially in the Arava where roads were cut and motorists were stranded for long periods.

The Beit Dagan weather bureau said the wet, gusty conditions would gradually die out tonight and be replaced by partly cloudy weather tomorrow with a slight rise in temperatures.

Yi'ud cleared to join government

DAN IZENBERG

THE way was finally open for Yi'ud to join the government yesterday, when the coalition defeated a Tsomet no-confidence motion, and then passed an amendment to the Basic Law: Government, enabling members of breakaway factions to become ministers.

The vote on the no-confidence motion was 60 to 44 and the law passed by a vote of 59 to 49.

Israel Radio reported that Yi'ud faction chairman Gonen Segev will be appointed Energy Minister, while Alex Goldfarb will be Deputy Interior Minister.

Four die on roads

AMIR ROZENBLIT and Itim

FOUR people were killed and one was injured in traffic accidents around the country yesterday.

A woman, 25, was killed near Hadera when the car in which she was traveling veered and crashed into an electrical pole. The driver suffered light to moderate injuries.

In Rishon Lezion, a woman was hit by a minibus and killed while crossing a street with her son. A motorcyclist, 20, was hit by a bus and killed in Tel Aviv. The bus driver was detained by police for questioning.

An Ethiopian immigrant, 78, suffered fatal injuries when he was hit by a bus in Beersheba. He died in Soroka Hospital.

Haim Shapiro adds:

Many relatively new cars are unsafe for winter driving, according to the Israel Garage Association, which is running a campaign for drivers to have their cars checked for the winter. According to the association, which says that tens of thousands of car owners have already had their cars checked, the police and Transport Ministry are to conduct spot checks on the highways to ensure that cars are roadworthy. Unsafe cars will not be allowed to continue and their drivers will be fined NIS 150.



Armenian Foreign Minister Vahan Papazian and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres shake hands after signing agreements in Jerusalem yesterday for cultural, economic and scientific cooperation and agreeing to hold political consultations.

(Yitzhak Elharar/Scoop 80)

Armenian FM: Peace process can teach others a lesson

HAIM SHAPIRO

THE Middle East could serve as an example to the Caucasus on how to solve differences between states, Armenian Foreign Minister Vahan Papazian, who is presently visiting Israel, said yesterday.

Papazian, who was speaking at a luncheon in his honor given by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, said that Armenia was watching the Middle East peace process carefully and hopefully. The conflict in the Caucasus was similar to that in the Middle East, he said.

During the visit, the two leaders also signed an agreement for cultural, educational and scientific cooperation and an agreement to hold political consultations. The two countries are also expected to reach an understanding concerning cooperation in the spheres of agriculture, energy, trade and industry, health, aviation, protecting investments and preventing double taxation.

Papazian, who is accompanied by the Armenian Agricultural Minister and Central Bank Governor, also visited Yad Vashem and met with leaders of the local Armenian community.

Non-profit organization director declared state's witness at Deri trial

AVRAHAM Hecht, the director of the Moreshet Binyamin non-profit organization accused of bribing MK Aryeh Deri, was declared a state's witness yesterday in exchange for the prosecution's agreeing not to file charges against him.

When yesterday's session of the trial in Jerusalem District Court opened, Judge Miriam Naor asked why no indictment had been filed against Hecht. Prosecutor Yehoshua Resnick told her that no indictment would be filed, and he would be granted immunity in exchange for his testimony.

Judge Ya'acov Tzemach said the announcement made Hecht a state's witness, and Resnick agreed. However, Hecht grew visibly upset over the declaration, and said he "denies everything."

The judges then asked Resnick to explain what he meant by declaring Hecht a state's witness. Following Resnick's explanations and a discussion with Hecht and his lawyer, Hecht agreed to his new status and began testifying.

However, his testimony will be deemed inadmissible if the prosecution fails to present evidence supporting it.

Hecht told Resnick he had not come to a pre-trial preparatory meeting with the prosecution because he had been "hassled" and summoned to court eight times for meetings that were canceled. He added that the police threatened him and questioned him under warning during his interrogation.

Hecht claimed that since he was involved with the organization's finances, he had no information about its contacts with land dealer Shmuel Einav, who negotiated with the Arab who sold the group the Nebi Samwil land. He said the company had given Einav NIS 1.8 million for the land, but had not received all the land it had paid for.

Asked about a mediation agreement signed between Einav and the group, Hecht said he knew nothing about it.

"Search your memory, it's hard for me to believe that you were [only] involved in finances or that you don't remember details of the agreement," said Tzemach. When Hecht started leafing through documents presented to the court, Resnick asked him to stop, saying he was not prepared for the trial because he had not come to the pre-trial meeting. (Itim)

Coalition readies for Knesset budget battle

DAN IZENBERG

HOPING to prevent a repeat of last year's bitter internal budget battles, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin asked all coalition MKs to arrange their proposals for changes in the 1995 budget according to the appropriate ministry and present them by tonight.

The MKs will meet with the appropriate minister and Finance Minister Avraham Shohat to discuss each proposal, Rabin said at a special gathering of coalition MKs yesterday.

"I know everyone represents a sector, and primaries are looming and there may be clashing interests," he said. "Sometimes there are differences between me and the foreign minister or the finance minister, but we work together."

Rabin kept stressing the need for a budget which would facilitate economic growth. "Working together, we can cope with the dangers of inflation and see to continuing growth, which is the main target. The more we grow, the more we will be able to provide for the various needs of society."

Rabin also said the government had to find ways to lighten the burden on the middle-income sector following passage of the national health insurance and capital gains tax laws.

Shohat said the budget foresaw growth of 7 percent-8 percent in 1995, and said the extra income would provide solutions to the unemployment problem and the costs of infrastructure and education.

Shohat called on the MKs to work out their demands while the budget is still in the Finance Committee, and urged them not to present amendments to the bill when it comes up for final reading.

The budget debate in the plenum is scheduled for next Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

Kinkel announces new EU accord with Israel

BRUSSELS (Reuter) – The European Union has reached "agreement in principle" with Israel on a new cooperation accord, German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said yesterday.

But EU and Israeli sources gave no details of the accord which followed weekend telephone contacts between the EU's German presidency and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

One Israeli source said that some issues which had been causing difficulty would still have to be discussed in the new year under the French EU presidency.

These would include Israeli requests for access to bid for EU government contracts in the telecommunications sector in order to reduce Israel's trade deficit with the EU.

According to Israeli statistics, the deficit is likely to hit $6 billion this year, up from $5.5 billion in 1993.

The new accord with Israel would replace a 1975 agreement.

The EU's German presidency had hoped to conclude the agreements with Israel, Tunisia and Morocco before the end of this year.

This goal was partly to drive home the political point that the EU is not forgetting its Mediterranean neighbors as it prepares to admit east European countries as EU members.

Kinkel told a news conference after a regular EU foreign ministers' meeting yesterday that ministers had approved a mandate for the European Commission to start negotiating a cooperation agreement with Egypt.

Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the seven of spades, queen of hearts, king of diamonds, and seven of clubs.

Police drop case against 'Davar'

MICHAL YUDELMAN

THE police decided yesterday to close the case against *Davar* due to a lack of evidence and public interest.

Histadrut Chairman Haim Ramon had filed a complaint with the police against *Davar*'s management in September charging "acts bordering on the criminal" in press briefings and public assemblies.

Ramon, who had announced his intention to close the Histadrut-owned newspaper down as soon as he was elected Histadrut chairman, charged *Davar*'s management with grave financial irregularities, including the absence of a management or board of directors.

The charges included failure to keep protocols, failure to report the newspaper's financial records for the years 1991-1993, failure to report the paper's income for these years to the tax authorities, and the absence of detailed documentation concerning the subsidies which the Histadrut had given *Davar*, totaling some NIS 10 million annually.

Davar maintained that all the charges are groundless, as those responsible for the newspaper, its operation and financial situation are the Histadrut leaders themselves. The Histadrut neglected to appoint a director-general or board of directors for the newspaper for years, and consequently did not get the reports it should have received from these bodies.

The management further noted that *Davar*, as one of the Histadrut's companies, was subjected to the scrutiny of the Histadrut comptroller.

Davar's Action Committee member Efraim Davidi yesterday presented Ramon with the newspaper's journalists' recommendation to enter into talks with French millionaire Jean Friedman over *Davar*'s purchase. The recommendation was also handed to Histadrut Treasurer MK Haim Oron and Trade Union Section Chairman MK Amir Peretz.

Histadrut Treasurer Oron last week presented the journalists with two proposals to buy the newspaper, one by Netanya businessman Yitzhak Tshuva and the other by Friedman. The latter was voted the more serious proposal by a majority of journalists after a stormy general assembly on Sunday.

According to Friedman's offer, the journalists of the new paper will own 20% of its shares and will be signed on a collective wage agreement. The newspaper would take on at least 70 of Davar's 150 workers, at least 52 of them journalists, who would maintain their professional status and wage terms.

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